

## Modern History of Seed Activities in BC

Painting a picture of the importance of seed in the BC organic farming community as well as the evolution of the seed grower community and activities in BC.

- 1987 - Salt Spring Seeds founded by Dan Jason
  - ***What other seed companies existed then that are no longer operating? None on file***
- 1990 - First Seedy Saturday in BC
  - Vancouver (Van Dusen Gardens) and (lesser-known) Keremeos (Grist Mill)
  - See growth of Seedy Saturdays in [BC graph here](#)
- 1994 - First Seedy Saturday in Victoria (which has become a major annual event)
- 2005 - First BC seed grower working group formed to support BC seed production and seed companies
  - ***Heather Pritchard, Arthur Ralfs, Susan Davidson, Patrick Steiner, Jeff Nield, Chris wells (Thoreau)***
- [2007](#) - Delivery of first provincial seed grower survey results
- 2007 - BC Seeds program integrated into FarmFolk CityFolk programs
- 2008 - Launch of [BCseeds.org](#) website for FFCF Seed Security program
- [2012](#) - First BC Seed Gathering in Lower Mainland
- [2012](#) - Launch of the UBC Farm Seed Hub
- 2012 - Conceptualization and development of the BC Eco Seed Co-op
- [2013](#) - Launch of Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security in BC and across Canada
- 2013 - Launch of Participatory Plant Breeding projects in BC
  - [2014](#) Carrot Seed Project report
  - [U. of M.](#) - Wheat, Oat, and Potato breeding
- 2014 - Second BC Seed Gathering
- [2014](#) - launch of the BC Eco Seed Co-op
- [2014](#) - Delivery of second provincial seed grower surveys by BC Eco Seed Co-op
- Increase in field days, workshops, and tasting events as organized by FarmFolk City Folk and the Bauta Initiative in BC
  - [2018](#) Seed economics webinar
  - [2017](#) plant breeding workshop with Laurie McKenzie
  - [2017](#) beet tasting
  - [2016](#) plant breeding workshops with John Navazio
  - [2016](#) beet tasting
  - 2006 seed production workshop with John Navazio - Saanich

- 2004 seed production workshop with John Navazio - Sorrento
- 2001 seed production workshop with John Navazio - UBC Farm
- 2015 - Launch of [seed grower mentorship program](#) at FarmFolk CityFolk
- 2015 - Launch of [Borrowsave.com](#) website focused on BC seed libraries
- 2016 - Launch of BC Seed Trials project and website - FFCF and UBC
  - [2016](#) crop reports
- 2016 - Presentation of BC Seed Trials at Pacific Agriculture Show and COABC Conference
- [2016](#) - Co-development of Canadian Organic Growers online Organic Seed Production course
- 2017 - Third BC Seed Gathering
- 2017 - Presentation of BC Seed Trials at Pacific Agriculture Show
- [2017](#) - Launch of Citizen Seed Trial program
- [2018](#) - Isolation structure presentation at Organic Seed Growers Conference
- 2018 - Seed Economics presentations at COBAC Conference and Pacific Agriculture Show
- [2018](#) - Seed Economics Webinar
- Various BC seed **publications**
  - [2021](#) - BC Seed Hub Feasibility Findings Report
  - [2018](#) - Seed Resiliency Report (Dan Jason)
  - [2017](#) - Seed Viability Assessment paper (UBC)
  - [2016](#) - The Power of Pulses (Dan Jason)
  - [2015](#) - UBC Farm Seed Hub Paper (Mel Sylvestre)
  - [2014](#) - Carrot Seed Project report (Jesse Howardson/FFCF)
  - [2008](#) - Small-scale Organic Seed Production manual (Patrick Steiner)
  - [2007](#) - Exploring Certified Organic Seed Production in British Columbia (Chris Wells)
  - Saving Seeds as if Our Lives Depended on it (Dan Jason)

It should be noted that many of these events and initiatives have been possible due to ongoing funding for BC seed programs by the Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, BC Ministry of Agriculture, Investment Agriculture Foundation, and coordination work by FarmFolk CityFolk. I think this speaks to the importance of funding for making things happen and to what degree things can happen if funding is available. Since 2013, the Bauta Initiative has contributed over \$600,000 to seed program development in BC. That said, little of that funding has gone towards supporting Seedy Saturday events, which have seen constant growth throughout BC and Canada since their inception in 1990.