



---

**For Immediate Release**

5 December 2011

*“Growing Strawberries Organically”*

OTTAWA—*Growing Strawberries Organically* is the newest handbook published by Canadian Organic Growers (COG) in its Practical Skills series of technical manuals for organic agriculture. The book and the series continue COG’s commitment and success in educating organic and transitioning growers.

Consumer demand is pushing organic production to be the fastest-growing sector in agriculture, and this book will help all Canadian strawberry growers enter this high-demand market. This informative handbook is also relevant to any producer who wishes to reduce chemical applications, thereby saving money.

“Consumers frequently contact us to find where they can buy organic strawberries or u-picks, since conventional strawberries rank very high for pesticide residues.” said Beth McMahon, Executive Director of COG. “But there are large gaps in the marketplace and many communities across Canada that have no local berry production.”

In organic systems, caring for the soil is key, both to provide growing nutrients and to reduce pressure from weeds, pests and diseases. *Growing Strawberries Organically* is based on farm-tested cultural practices and includes the stories of several Canadian growers sharing what works and what doesn’t, with advice on topics as diverse as cover crops, insect control, marketing and “weeder geese.”

The Practical Skills series and other handbooks are available from Canadian Organic Growers on the web at [www.cog.ca](http://www.cog.ca) or by phone at 1-888-375-7383 (Canada) or 1-613-216-0741. The cost is \$22.00.

*Growing Strawberries Organically* was funded in part through adaptation programming provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. We wish to acknowledge the support of the following organizations for making this publication possible: the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia, the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council, the New Brunswick Agriculture Council / Conseil Agricole Nouveau-Brunswick, the Territorial Farmers Association and the Yukon Agricultural Association.

Canadian Organic Growers (COG) is a national charitable organization with members across the country. Since 1975, COG has focused on advocacy and education for organic agriculture in Canada.

###

**Contacts**

For images and to arrange author interviews :

Kristine Swaren, Project Manager Publications, [kristine@cog.ca](mailto:kristine@cog.ca) or 613-278-1226 (direct)

Canadian Organic Growers:

Beth McMahon, Executive Director, [beth@cog.ca](mailto:beth@cog.ca) or 613-216-0741

---

*our nature is organic ~ le bio, au coeur même de notre nature*