

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, sales of organic products in the United States grew to \$39 billion in 2014, up from \$35.1 billion in 2013; and

WHEREAS, organic farms and their crops have become an important segment of the Washington State agriculture industry, including the production of certified organic dairy products, livestock, tree fruit, berries, vegetables, forage, and additional commodities; and

WHEREAS, Washington produces more than 70 percent of all organic apples in the nation; and is a leading producer of organic apples, pears, cherries, blueberries, juice grapes, sweet corn, green peas, snap beans, and hops; and

WHEREAS, there are 1100 certified organic operations in Washington, including handlers, processors and growers, the latter group stewarding 90,000 acres of certified organic farm land, double the amount of a decade ago; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Agriculture created one of the nation's first organic food programs to regulate and promote organic production in the interest of the organic industry and consumers; and

WHEREAS, Tilth Producers of Washington is promoting Washington Organic Week (WOW!) to bring together organic growers, processors and handlers, organic agriculture advocates, and consumers in a celebration of food, health, and commerce; and

WHEREAS, Washington State is proud to highlight and support the benefits of local organic agriculture to our economy; our personal, community, and environmental health; and our family farmers and rural communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the State of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 12 – 19, 2015 as

Washington Organic Week

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 3rd day of August, 2015

Handwritten signature of Jay Inslee in blue ink.
Governor Jay Inslee