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Subscription Information

The American Journal of Alternative Agriculture (ISSN 0889-1893) is published quarterly by the Institute for Alternative Agriculture, Inc., 9200 Edmonston Road, Suite 117, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. The IAA is not responsible for statements and opinions expressed by authors. Journal subscription rates: Institutions \$40 a year (\$47 foreign); Individuals \$20 a year (\$27 foreign); IAA Members \$15 a year (\$22 foreign); Students \$10 a year (\$17 foreign). Second Class postage paid at Greenbelt, MD. Postmaster: Send address changes to American Journal of Alternative Agriculture, 9200 Edmonston Road, Suite 117, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

Institute Information

The Institute for Alternative Agriculture is a nonprofit, tax-exempt research and education organization established in 1983 to encourage and facilitate the adoption of low-cost, resource-conserving and environmentally-sound farming methods. It works closely with producer groups, public research and education institutions, and government agencies in promoting a sustainable agriculture system.

Its programs include providing a national information clearinghouse, serving as a voice for sustainable agriculture in Washington, and developing and implementing research and educational outreach programs. It holds an annual scientific symposium and publishes a monthly newsletter.

The Institute is governed by a grass roots Board of Directors, which includes several commercial-scale organic farmers, and maintains a small professional staff. It is supported by memberships and donations and grants from foundations, corporations, and individuals.

Cover Photo

The cover picture shows a seven spotted lady bird beetle feeding on a pea aphid. This beetle was imported from Europe and has become established in America where it helps control aphids that attack alfalfa, other legumes, and fruit trees. Photo provided by the Agricultural Research Service, USDA.