

The background of the entire image is a dense, close-up photograph of almonds. The almonds are in various shades of light brown and tan, with some showing their characteristic ridged texture. They are piled together, filling the entire frame.

Do you know where your seeds come from?

**Why Does It Matter Where We
Source Our Seeds?**



Why Does It Matter Where We Source Our Seeds?

Objectives:

- To discuss the consolidation of the seed industry and why it matters
- To explain the Open Source Seed Initiative and which companies participate
- To describe neonicotinoids and why it is important to avoid their use
- To provide resources for further research



Why Does It Matter Where We Source Our Seeds?

The consolidation of the seed industry and why it matters



Why Does It Matter Where We Source Our Seeds?

60% of all seeds are being grown by only 4 huge conglomerates worldwide and this makes “our seed supply - thus our food supply ‘ less secure”?

Source:

<https://civileats.com/2019/01/11/the-sobering-details-behind-the-latest-seed-monopoly-chart/>



Why Does It Matter Where We Source Our Seeds?

Do you know where your seeds come from?

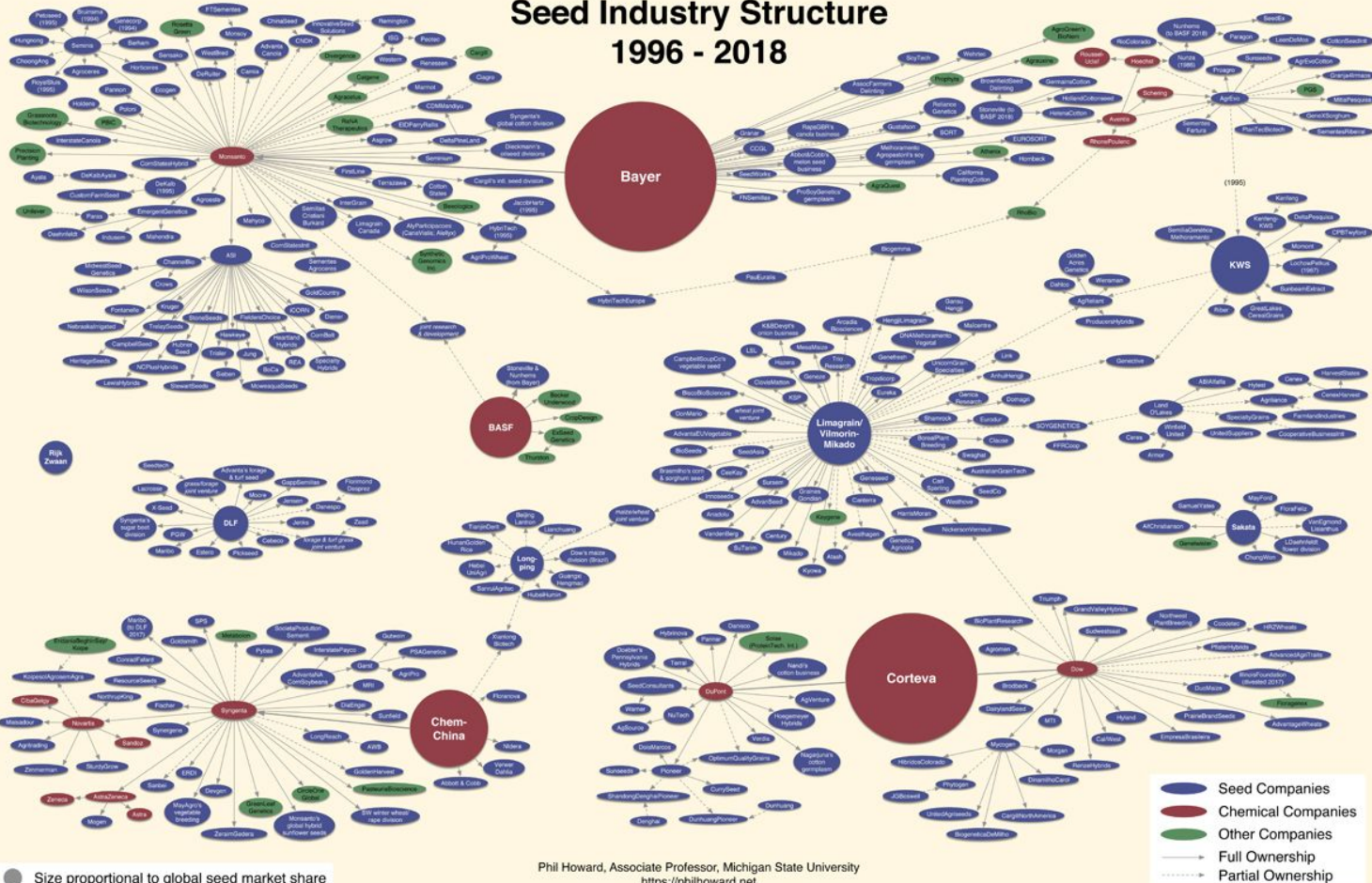
The Big 4:

- Bayer
- Cortiva
- ChemChina
- BASF

Source:

<https://civileats.com/2019/01/11/the-sobering-details-behind-the-latest-seed-monopoly-chart/>

Seed Industry Structure 1996 - 2018



Source:
<https://philhowardnet.files.wordpress.com/2023/01/seed2022.pdf>



Why Does It Matter Where We Source Our Seeds?

Why it matters:

- “The growing economic power of seed companies often keep farmers from being able to save seeds.”
- “When large industrial agriculture companies exert their influence, crop genetic diversity is generally reduced. This diversity is necessary for resilience against climate change.”

Source: <https://civileats.com/2016/01/21/why-seed-company-mergers-matter-in-a-warming-world-syngenta-monsanto/>



Why Does It Matter Where We Source Our Seeds?

What is the Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI)?

OSSI was created by a group of plant breeders, farmers, seed companies, and sustainability advocates who want to free the seed!

The Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI) is dedicated to maintaining fair and open access to plant genetic resources worldwide in order to ensure the availability of germplasm to farmers, gardeners, breeders, and communities of this and future generations.

Source: <https://osseeds.org/about/>

Why Does It Matter Where We Source Our Seeds?

OSSI Partner Seed Companies pledge to ensure the Four Open Source Seed Freedoms for this and future generations:

- The freedom to save or grow seed for replanting or for any other purpose.
- The freedom to share, trade, or sell seed to others.
- The freedom to trial and study seed and to share or publish information about it.
- The freedom to select or adapt the seed, make crosses with it, or use it to breed new lines and varieties.

Source: <https://osseeds.org/about/>

Why Does It Matter Where We Source Our Seeds?

What are neonicotinoids and why is it important to avoid their use?

[Neonics, the Toxic Truth](#)



For more information:

[How Neonics Can Harm Soil Health and Soil Biodiversity](#)

Source: NRDCflix & NRDC.org



Why Does It Matter Where We Source Our Seeds?

What are neonicotinoids and why is it important to avoid their use?

“Neonicotinoid insecticides are now the most widely used class of insecticides in the world... Neonicotinoids are very toxic to pollinators, beneficial insects, and aquatic invertebrates. Their widespread use, combined with their water solubility, means that they are now often found in water and soil samples throughout the country.”

Source: <https://www.xerces.org/pesticides/understanding-neonicotinoids>



Why Does It Matter Where We Source Our Seeds?

What are neonicotinoids and why is it important to avoid their use?

“Because they are systemic chemicals absorbed into the plant, neonicotinoids can be present in pollen and nectar, making them toxic to pollinators that feed on them. The potentially long-lasting presence of neonicotinoids in plants makes it possible for these chemicals to harm pollinators even when the initial application is made months before the bloom period.”

Source: <https://www.xerces.org/pesticides/understanding-neonicotinoids>



Why Does It Matter Where We Source Our Seeds?

What can we do?

- Save our own seeds
- Purchase seeds from OSSI Partner Seed Companies such as: Fedco, Fruition Seeds, Harris Seeds Organic, Hudson Valley Seed Company, Row 7 Seed Company, and High Mowing Organic Seeds
- [Take action](https://www.nrdc.org) through NRDC.org

Why Does It Matter Where We Source Our Seeds?

Websites for more information:

- <https://seedalliance.org/publications/a-policy-platform-for-seed/>
- <https://civileats.com/2019/01/11/the-sobering-details-behind-the-latest-seed-monopoly-chart/>
- <https://osseeds.org/ossi-partners/>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4284396/#:~:text=Persistence%20in%20soils%2C%20waterways%2C%20and,for%20periods%20exceeding%201%20year.>
- <https://awaytogarden.com/new-series-seed-dr-john-navazio/>
- <https://awaytogarden.com/a-new-brand-of-seed-in-town-ossi-or-open-source-seed-initiative/>

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Websites for more information:

- <https://www.nrdc.org/bio/daniel-rath/how-neonics-can-harm-soil-health-and-soil-biodiversity>
- A list of the sources I used for this presentation can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/mutj2tbd>

