

How to Save Seeds



Grow • Eat • Share

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Seed Saving Resources and Instructions

Did you know? You can save the seeds from your favorite plants to plant next year.

Inside you will find basic information about how to save seeds. And, for more information, check out these Websites and books

- [Seed Savers Exchange](#)
- [Vegetable Seed Saving Handbook](#)

Check out these books!!!

Seed Sowing and Saving: Step-by-Step Techniques for Collecting and Growing More Than 100 Vegetables, Flowers, and Herbs. Carole B. Turner, 1998.

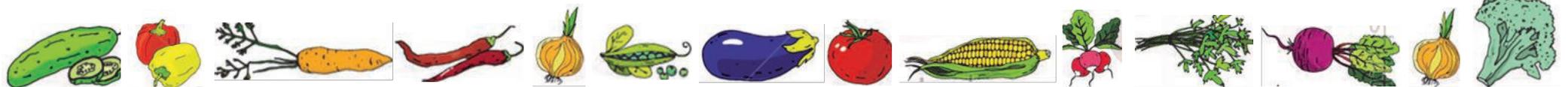
The Complete Idiot's Guide to Seed Saving and Starting. Sheri Ann Richerson, 2012.

The Incredible Edible Landscape. Joy Bossi and Karen Bastow, 2012.

Saving Seeds: The Gardener's Guide to Growing and Storing Vegetable and Flower Seeds (Down-to-Earth Gardening Book). Marc Rogers, 1990.

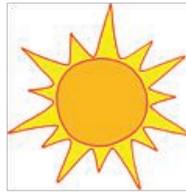
How to Donate/Return Seeds

1. Take a Seed Lending Library stamped envelope, and include the following information about your seeds:
 - A. Common name
 - B. Scientific name
 - C. Variety
 - D. Year your seeds were collected
 - E. City your seeds were collected in
2. Place seeds in the envelope and seal it shut.
3. Fill in the Seed Lending Library Returning Form.
4. Place the seed envelope in the Seed Deposit Box.



PLANNING YOUR GARDEN

Before you ever put seeds in the ground, it is important to select the best location for your garden. Plants generally need 6-8 hours of direct sunlight. Once you have selected the location of your garden, follow our instructions in the *Garden Glossary* brochure to learn how to prepare the soil to make the best growing environment for your seeds.



Tomato Plant

The quality of the seeds your garden will produce depends on the care you take in choosing plants for your garden. Some plants self-pollinate (tomatoes, beans, lettuce), meaning that these plants do not need another plant to produce fruit (or veggies). Seeds from these

plants will produce plants similar to the parent plant. These are the easiest seeds to collect successfully.

Many plants cross-pollinate—pollen is transferred from one plant to another by wind or insects. Depending on the specific plant and the proximity of related plants, cross pollination can make it difficult to collect seeds that breed true. For instance, if you plan to

collect cucumber seeds, make sure only one variety of cucumber blooms in your garden at one time. Because many other vegetables will also cross pollinate, obtain plant-specific information from books, seed exchanges or online while planning your garden. Purchased hybrid seeds will produce a uniform crop, but seeds collected from that crop will not.

PLEASE DO NOT GIVE SEEDS COLLECTED FROM HYBRID PLANTS TO THE SEED LIBRARY!

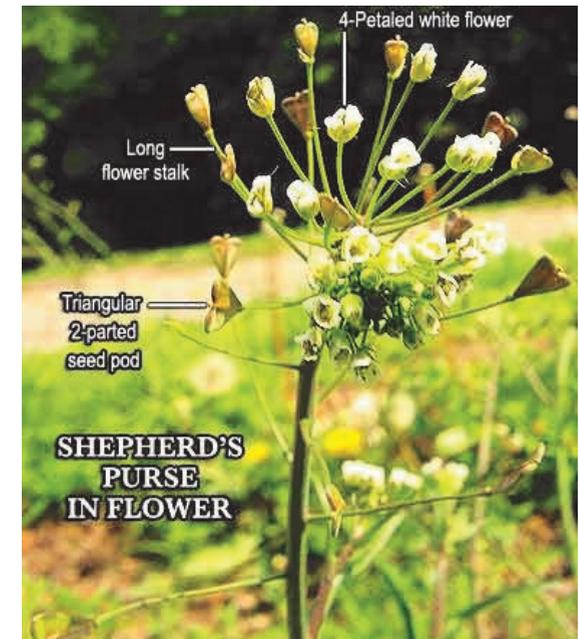
It is very important to the success of the Seed Library that everyone knows what seeds are in a packet. We need everyone's cooperation to make sure that seeds are what they are labeled to be.



COLLECTING SEEDS

Some plants are annuals and will produce seeds in only one growing season (spinach, beans, squash). Others are biennial (two year life cycle) and you will need to keep some plants in your garden for two years before you will be able to collect their seeds (beets, parsley, mustard greens).

Check out information from the seed saving resources in this brochure to see pictures of what plants look like when “going to seed.”



A mustard plant going to seed. Check out where the seeds are—all plants produce seeds differently.

Dry seeds (beans, peppers, carrots, flowers): Gather dry seed pods from plants. Separate seeds from husks. Label envelope and place seeds in envelope.

Wet seeds (pumpkins, melons, eggplant): Let fruit fully mature on plant so the seeds will also be mature. Scoop seeds and pulp into a bowl of water. Live seeds will sink. Pour off pulp and dead seeds. Add water and repeat until seeds are clean. Dry the seeds on a hard surface for several days. Label envelope and place seeds in envelope. Some wet seeds are fermented before cleaning to improve germination (tomatoes).

