

Words to Know

Open pollinated or Heirloom Seeds
Grown for many successive generations; their physical and genetic qualities are fairly stable. The seeds will be “true to type” if saved.

Hybrid seeds

When cross pollination occurs between varieties, seeds will produce plants different from the parents.

Pollination

The transfer of pollen from male to female reproductive organs to produce fruit and seeds.

Cross pollination

The transfer of pollen from one variety of plant to the female flower of another; this causes unpredictable results in the fruit and seeds.

Biennial

A flowering plant that takes two years to produce fruit and seeds.

Fermentation

A process that mimics natural chemical reactions by allowing seeds to break down organic barriers and prepare for germination. The fermentation process breaks down germination inhibitors and protects against certain diseases.

The library's commitment to helping grow plants from seeds is a gift to you.

The seeds you save and return are a gift to your community.



WHY SAVE SEEDS?

We've been saving seeds for over 12,000 years, but knowledge has been lost over the last 100 years. When you save seeds, you:

- Preserve biodiversity and develop seed stock well suited to our climate
- Save money
- Become less dependent on agro-business.
- Create a culture of sharing and abundance.

Support the Seed Exchange Library

For information about how to volunteer or donate, contact NPRLibrary@gmail.com

The seed is hope; the flower is joy.
~ author unknown

How To Save & Share Seeds



NPRL's Seed Saver Library
5939 Main Street
New Port Richey, FL
Mon-Thur, 10-8PM
Fri-Sat, 10-2PM

Saving & Sharing



Choosing Seeds:

Library seeds are open-pollinated or heirloom varieties; seeds saved from these plants produce fruit that will be the same as the parent plant. When growing to save seed, please try to match the *seed saving* difficulty with your gardening expertise. Here are some guidelines for growing plants to save seed.

Easy Seeds

Easy seeds are great for beginners and grow plants that are less likely to cross-pollinate with other plants in that family.

Tip: Stick with one variety of a plant, or separate different varieties with a taller buffer crop or distance.

Medium Seeds

Medium seeds grow plants that are insect pollinated or biennial. These seeds are likely to cross-pollinate with other varieties of the same plant to grow a "mystery" plant. They may also take more than one season to produce seeds.

Tip: Choose only one variety from each plant or separate similar plants by placing them a good distance apart, like in the front and back yard.

Advanced Seeds

Advanced seeds grow plants that are wind or insect pollinated and very likely to cross-pollinate with other plant varieties.

Tips: Stick to a single plant variety, stagger growing times, and use tenting or hand pollination techniques to preserve the purity of the seed. It's also very important to check the botanical name to ensure which plants are related and susceptible to cross-pollination.

3 Ways to Save Seeds:

At harvest time, please take some extra steps to save seeds for others to borrow and plant. By returning a portion of the seeds you save from your strongest, tastiest, and most vigorous plants, you'll help keep your seed library growing.

Dry Seed Processing - For plants w/seeds growing outside the plant. Allow the seed to dry on the plant and collect the seedpods before they break open. For plants with seeds that develop in the center of the flower, allow the plant to dry. When the stem holding the seed head turns brown, harvest the seeds.

Tip: Collect dry seeds under dry, warm conditions to prevent mold and reduce additional drying time.

Wet Seed Processing - For seeds growing in the fruit of the plant. Rinse off the seeds and dry them thoroughly. If the seeds have a gel-like coating, use the fermentation process.

Tip: If you're not sure if your seeds have a coating, float them in a small amount of water. You'll be able to see the coating in the water.

Fermentation Seed Processing - For seeds with a gel-like coating, like cucumbers and tomatoes.

Mix seeds w/ seed juice & a little water in a lidded container. Let rest for 4 - 6 days. When a layer of mold forms on top & seeds sink, the fermentation is complete. Add water, swish & remove the mold and pulp. Good seeds sink to the bottom; bad seeds float to the top. Drain the water from the good seeds & set on a plate, screen, or paper towel. When completely dry, store and label them a moisture-proof container.