How to Save Seeds

Open-pollinated seeds are the offspring of two plants of the same variety crossed naturally without the interference of man, and seed saving is an important means of preserving such plants.

Heirloom seeds are open-pollinated seeds that are more than 50 years old. Unlike hybrid seeds, which are intentionally crossbred and do not produce plants like their “parent plants,” heirloom varieties have been grown for many generations, and their physical and genetic qualities are relatively stable. Heirloom seeds will be true to type if saved—you will reap what you sow. Seed harvesting techniques fall into two main categories according to whether the fruits and seeds are dry or wet when mature.

Dry Collecting
Seeds that grow on the outside of a plant (such as beans and dill) usually can be harvested through the dry method. This is the simplest way of collecting seeds:
☞ Let seeds mature completely on the plant
☞ Collect them

Wet Processing
Seeds that grow on the inside of a fruit or vegetable (such as tomatoes) will need to be harvested using a wet technique:
☞ Allow the plant’s fruit to mature completely on the plant
☞ Harvest the fruit, then remove the seeds and, if possible, any flesh that is attached
☞ Place seeds in a glass jar and cover them with room-temperature water
☞ Allow them to sit undisturbed in a dark place for 3 to 5 days
☞ Remove any scum, debris, or seeds that are floating on top
☞ Pour off remaining water using a fine sieve to catch the seeds
☞ Rinse seeds in room-temperature water followed by hydrogen peroxide
☞ Pat seeds dry between paper towels and allow them to air dry

Helpful Links

www.nchcpl.org/seeds
Visit our website for information about seed-saving, how you can volunteer, and helpful gardening information.

www.hoosiergardener.com
Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp is considered the foremost authority on gardening in Indiana. On her site, she provides “an informed, yet personal take on natural gardening in Indiana and other dirty topics.”

www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/garden_pubs.html
This link from the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture provides articles about everything from houseplants to landscape management.

Our Mission

The mission of The Seed Library @ New Castle-Henry County Public Library is to foster a healthy community and sustainability by providing a seed library that supports the longevity and integrity of heirloom seeds.

NEW CASTLE • HENRY COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
376 South 15th Street ♦ New Castle, IN
(765) 529-0362
www.nchcpl.org/seeds
How it works

**Borrow**
SELECT seed packets from the seed library.
(Please limit your family to 10 packets per month.)

**Grow**

**Return**
HARVEST seeds from your mature plants. Return new seeds in original Seed Library envelope.

**Location/Hours**
The Seed Library is located near the Indiana Room on the upper level of the library. It will be available to patrons during the library’s regular hours throughout the months of February-October.

The Seed Library is hosting a series of helpful workshops in partnership with the Hancock County Master Gardeners. Programs begin at 6:30 pm at the library. Reserve your seat by calling 575-4557 or visit www.nchcpl.org and click on the events link.

### 2019 PROGRAMS

**Cooking with Herbs**
**Presenter:** Sue Hamm, Master Gardener
—Grow your own herbs in a kitchen garden to add exactly the flavor you want to your meals.

**May 13: Attracting Garden Visitors**
**Presenter:** Bob Degitz & Vicki Snarr, Master Gardener
—Get the inside scoop on using different types of native plants to naturally attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and birds.

**SUMMER BREAK**

**September 9: Putting Your Garden To Bed and Planning**
**Presenter:** Vicki Snarr, Master Gardener
—Get tips and tricks on the best ways to harvest your seeds and prepare your garden for a long winter’s rest.

**October 14: Fall Garden Craft**
**Presenter:** Peggy Brewer, Master Gardener
—Make and take a natural painting craft that will add even more beauty to your garden.

**Bookmobile**
The Bookmobile will have a miniature version of The Seed Library, with a sampling of seeds from the main library. Bookmobile patrons will be able to look at a seed list and ask for packets they would like to be brought on future Bookmobile visits.

**Donors**
Materials were donated, and skillfully crafted into our cabinet, by the Hoosier Wood-workers Guild. Additional funding for the cabinet and to purchase seeds was provided by Friends of the Library.

These companies generously donated seeds this year:

- Abundant Life Seed Company
- Territorial Seed Company
- Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds
- Botanical Interests, Inc.
- Seeds of Change
- Southern Exposure Seed Exchange
- Sustainable Seeds
- Victory Seeds