

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF SAVING AND SHARING SEEDS!

WHY SAVE SEEDS?

For at least 12,000 years, humans have been saving seeds. However, much of that knowledge and diversity is being lost as we become more and more distant from the food we eat, and where and how it grows. When you cultivate and save your own seeds, you:

- ✓ Develop seed stock that is well suited to your climate
- ✓ Lessen your dependence on commercial farming
- ✓ Save the stories, heritage and history carried by seeds

When you participate in the seed exchange, you take part in a culture of sharing and abundance. You are helping to save this priceless collection of seeds and their stories. You make a difference.

THE EARTH OPENED IN THE SPRING,
OPENS IN ALL SPRINGS NAMELESS,
ANCIENT, MANY-LIVED WE REACH
THROUGH THE AGES WITH THE SEED.

—WENDELL BERRY, "RISING"

LEARN MORE

www.mthorebhistory.org/driftless_seed_project

- ✓ Take seed saving classes
- ✓ Join Seed Savers Exchange at www.seedsavers.org
- ✓ Read about seed saving at your local library
- ✓ Talk to experienced seed-saving gardeners
- ✓ Keep good garden records

DRIFTLESS SEED PROJECT PARTNERS:

Back Home Farm,
Blue Mounds, WI

Mount Horeb Area Community Garden,
Mt Horeb, WI

Mount Horeb Area Historical Society,
Mt Horeb, WI

Catherine Young (Author, Educator, Naturalist),
Blue River, WI

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DRIFTLESS
SEED PROJECT

**SEEDS AS
CARRIERS
OF CULTURE
AND HERITAGE**

NEW TO SEED SAVING?

Start with seeds that are labeled “easy.” These seeds are great for beginning gardeners. The plants you’ll grow and the seeds they produce will stay the same.

We recommend you start with these:

| | | |
|---------|----------|------------|
| Basil | Eggplant | Peas |
| Beans | Leeks | Peppers |
| Beets | Lettuce | Spinach |
| Carrots | Onions | Sunflowers |
| Chard | Parsley | Tomatoes |

The seeds that are labeled “advanced” require special planning to preserve varietal purity. If certain precautions are not taken with them, the next grower will not get the same plant.

We want to ensure that the seeds we offer in the Seed Library are what we say they are! Please only borrow “advanced” seeds after you have learned how to isolate plants to prevent mixing/cross-pollination.

LIBRARY ORGANIZATION

The library is organized by plant families. Drawers are labeled "easy" or “advanced” with family names and some common members of the family. For example, Lily Family: chives, garlic, leek, onion. There are dividers for each plant family, with related seeds filed alphabetically behind the divider.

BORROWING SEEDS

The seeds you borrow from the Driftless Seed Project are donated by others. These priceless seeds are free to you.

A commitment to growing plants from seeds is a gift to yourself. We hope you will find quiet joy in gardening, and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

At harvest time, please take the extra steps to save seeds for others. Return a portion of your seeds to the Seed Library to keep it self-sustaining. The more seeds in the library, the more members of our community (and your neighbors) can experience the satisfaction and enjoyment of growing their own food.

HOW TO BORROW SEEDS

- 1 Fill out requested information on the Membership Form. These can be found in the binder on the Seed Cabinet.
- 2 Remove the seed envelopes from the cabinet that you wish to borrow for the growing season. (Please be mindful of others and only take what you can manage.)
- 3 On the Membership Form, list what seeds you are borrowing.

HOW TO DONATE AND RETURN SEEDS

- 1 Once you have collected seed from your easy-to-save crops, set aside some for yourself and some for the Seed Library in clearly labeled containers. Label with: your name, seeds donated, year and location of collection.
- 2 Seeds for the Library should be returned in the provided envelopes. (Need some? Call us.)
- 3 Bring your labeled seeds to the Library. Find the appropriate Donation drawer and place them there.

