

Great plants for beginner seed savers!



Seed Saving

Basic seed saving guidelines

- Plan your garden to reduce cross-pollination by using isolation distances below.
 - Always save seeds from the healthiest, “true-to-type” plants.
 - Select seeds for different characteristics such as size, taste, & disease-resistance.
 - Don’t save seeds from hybrids.
 - Label your garden and packets.
 - Never plant all of your seeds in one year.
-

Peas & Beans (Legumes)

Plant: To ensure varietal purity isolate different varieties of beans by 100 ft and peas by 50 ft.

Harvest: Let beans and peas dry on the vine until crispy. Collect. Shell.

Know your bean species: If you know the scientific name of your bean, then you can plant one of each species and not have to worry about cross-pollination. Ex. Fava beans (*Vicia faba*) can be planted right next to Kentucky wonder beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*).

Watch our seed saving videos at RichmondGrowsSeeds.org.

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Sunflower Family

Lettuce

Plant: Isolate different varieties of lettuce by 10 ft.

Harvest: Let lettuce bolt. When half the flowers have turned white & fluffy, cut off the stalk and put upside down in a brown paper bag to dry. Remove chaff.

Sunflowers

Plant: Isolate different varieties of sunflowers by ¼ mile! Other strategies are to plant lots of the same variety of sunflower and rub your hand over the flowers to increase self-pollination.

Harvest: Let sunflower head dry on plant. Collect seeds.

Nightshade Family

Tomatoes

Plant: Isolate different varieties by 10 ft.

Harvest: Collect ripe tomatoes.

Squeeze pulp and seeds into a jar. Let ferment 2-3 days until a mold forms.

Add water. Pour off mold, floating seeds and any pulp. Viable seeds will sink. Repeat until water is clear. Put on a labeled paper to dry.

Peppers

Plant: Isolate different varieties by 400 ft. Peppers will cross!

Harvest: Remove seeds from fully ripened peppers. Use gloves, if hot. Dry.

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Seed Lending Libraries

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