

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Seed Library

Why a seed library?

People have been farming for thousands of years. One easy and sustainable way to keep your garden, is to save seeds for next year. Seed saving is a great way to save money, but there are a lot of other reasons to save your seeds.



When you save and share seeds you:

- Develop seeds that become acclimated to our local climate
- Grow plants that are more pest resistant
- Know where your food is coming from
- Create a culture of sharing and community
- Support a sustainable future for your community and your garden!

If you already save seeds, consider contributing to our seed library!

How to get started

Borrowing seeds from Oregon Public Library is free and it's easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Select packets of seeds and check them out from the library.
2. Grow your plants and enjoy the harvest.
3. Collect and return some seeds if you are able. There is no penalty for not returning seeds.



Available Seeds:

- Sweet Genovese Basil
- Provider Bush Beans
- Slobolt Cilantro
- Heirloom Chives
- Heirloom Dill
- Rosita Eggplant
- Lacinato Kale
- Lettuce Arrowhead
Bronze
- Slobolt Lettuce
- Bonanza Mix-Up Marigold
- Dwarf Gray Pea
- Early Jalapeno Pepper
- King of the North Pepper
- Bloomsdale Spinach
- Amish Paste Tomato
- Wisconsin 55 Tomato

Selecting Seeds:

Choose seeds for plants that will work in your garden space.

Light requirements

- Unless otherwise mentioned, assume that vegetables and flowers need *full sun*, meaning at least 6 hours of direct sunlight. *Partial Sun* means the plant needs 3-6 hours of sun and has a great emphasis on receiving at least the minimal sun requirements. *Partial shade* means that the plant will need some relief from the direct, intense heat of the sun. *Full shade* means the plant can survive on less than 3 hours of direct sunlight each day. Very few plants, especially vegetables, require full shade.

Starting seeds indoors versus direct sowing

- Seeds should be started at different times. Some plants should be started inside about 6 weeks before the last frost and then planted outside when the threat of frost has passed. Other seeds are planted directly in the outdoor soil **and don't mind it a little cold**.

Length of growing season

- The amount of time it takes to get a harvest varies from plant to plant. In the notes on each seed, be sure to figure out when the plant will be producing a harvest so that you will get a harvest before your plants freeze in the autumn.

Sweet Genovese Basil

Ocimum basilicum



About:

Sweet basil is often used in fresh salads or added to dishes near the end of cooking. The **plant is easy to grow and harvest. It's sensitive** to cold so it should not be planted outside until all danger of frost has passed. Basil can also be grown year-round indoors as a potted plant. It

should be placed in direct sunlight away from cold drafts.

Planting:

Produces in 70 days from sowing.

You can direct sow basil after the danger of frost has passed (between **Mother's Day** and Memorial). Or you can start basil inside in early April and then transplant outside to a location with full sun.

Plant seeds by covering them with about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch of soil. The growing basil seeds should germinate within a week. Once you see a couple pairs of leaves, you should thin the basil plants to be about 6 to 12 inches apart. Thinning the plants will help the surviving plants thrive by giving their roots plenty of space to grow.



Basil starting to flower.

During the growing season, pinch off any of the blossoms. If you allow the basil to bloom, it makes the plant less tasty.

Seed Collection:

When you are done with your growing season, allow the basil to bloom and let the flowers turn brown. Harvest the seed clusters when they are brown and spread them on a screen to dry. Place the clusters in a bowl, swirl the plant material around, and collect the small seeds that sink to the bottom.

Seeds purchased from A.P. Whaley Seed Company in 2018 & 2019

Provider Bush Beans

Phaseolus vulgaris



Image from A.P. Whaley Seed Company website

About:

Provider beans are a very desirable variety that is disease resistant. This tasty bean is one of the best for freezing and canning.

Planting:

Produces in 48-55 days. This bush bean will create a sturdy 16-18 inch tall bush with 5-6 inch beans.

Plant after last frost date (between **Mother's Day and Memorial Day**). Sow seeds about 1 inch deep and 4-6 inches apart with rows being 30 to 36 inches apart. Beans will be ready to

harvest about 2 weeks after they bloom. Continue harvest every few days for the rest of the season.

Seed Collection:

Let a few beans pods stay on the plant until they are brittle and dry. Then harvest the pods and let them dry for 1 -2 weeks. Another method is to pull the entire plant up and hang to dry. Once the pods are dry, shell them being careful not to break the seed coats.

Seeds purchased from A.P. Whaley Seed Company in 2019

Slobolt Cilantro

Coriandrum sativum



Image from A.P. Whaley Seed Company website

About:

Cilantro is one of the most widely used culinary herbs in the whole world. The fresh greens are called cilantro and the dried seeds are called coriander. Nice when added to fresh salads. Uniform, slow bolting strain. Annual.

Planting:

50 days.

Direct sow after the threat of frost has passed (usually **between Mother's Day and Memorial Day**). Sow seeds $\frac{1}{4}$

inch deep, 1-2 inches apart, in rows 8 inches apart.

Sow every 2-3 weeks for continuous harvest

Seed Collection:

Let cilantro bolt and flower. Cilantro flowers will form small green balls which will become the seeds. Once the seeds turn brown, they are ready to be collected. Pinch seeds off plant and dry on screens and rub to remove the seeds.



Cilantro starting to flower

Seeds purchased from A.P. Whaley Seed Company in 2019

Heirloom Chives

Allium



About:

Chives belong to the same family as onion, leeks, and garlic. They are a hardy, drought-tolerant, and are perennials. They grow in clumps from underground bulbs and produce round, hollow tasty leaves that are much finer than onion.

In mid spring to early summer, they produce round, pink flowers similar in appearance to clover. The leaves are used in many dishes for flavoring and the flowers can be eaten or used in bouquets. Chives can be continually harvested throughout the summer. The leaves

should be cut at the base to allow for new growth.

Planting:

Produces in 80 days and is a hardy perennial.

Plant seeds in a sunny location in early spring (between **Mother's Day** and Memorial Day) 2-4 inches deep and 12-18 inches apart. Mature plant grows 12-24 inches tall.

Seed Collection:

Chives may not bloom the first year they are planted. Allow to over winter outside and when they come up in the spring allow them to bloom and let the flowers turn brown. Before the seeds begin to shed from the flowers, harvest the seed. Dry on screens and rub to remove the seeds.

Heirloom Dill

Anethum graveolens



About:

Dill is an annual herb in the celery family. It is used most commonly in salads, soups, and pickling. Dill has a vibrant yellow flower that is also nice in flower arrangements, although it smells very strongly of dill.

Planting:

Dill does not grow well when transplanted, so start the seeds fresh in a sunny spot in early summer after the threat of frost has **passed (between Mother's Day and Memorial Day)**. Direct sow dill seeds about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep and in rows 18 inches apart, then rake the seeds into the soil.

As soon as the plant has 4 or 5 leaves, you can start harvesting. Successive sowings can be done every three weeks to harvest fresh greens continuously. For extended harvest, do not allow flowers to develop.

Seed Collection:

Allow the dill plant to flower and go to seed. The flowers will turn brown as the seed heads develop. Clip the stems off the plant and let dry for a few days. Then you can easily pluck the dill seeds from the flowers.



Each flower produces a lot of seed. If you let flowers go to seed in your garden, it will naturally re-sow for the next season.

Seeds donated at the end of the 2018 growing season

Rosita Eggplant

Solanum melongena



Image from A.P. Whaley Seed Company website

About:

This variety of eggplant was originally developed by the Puerto Rico Agricultural Station in the 1940's. It's an excellent choice for home gardens with tender skin, white flesh and a sweet and mild flavor.

Planting:

Produces in 80 days from transplant.

Start indoors 8-10 weeks before last frost (late March to early April).

Plant seeds $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep. Eggplants like warm soil so keep in a warm sunny spot inside. If possible use a lamp to keep the soil warm (around 80 degrees). The plants will germinate after 14 days. Transplant outside 2-3 weeks after last frost (early to mid-June) to a sunny location. Plant 18 to 28 inches apart in rows of 30 to 36 inches apart.

Seed Collection:

Leave an eggplant on the plant until it is overripe and inedible. The plant will look dull, turn brown, and be hard and shriveled. Slice open the eggplant and separate the flesh from the seeds. Put the seeds in a bowl of water and wash the pulp away. Strain the seeds, pat them dry and spread them out on a tray to dry for a month or two. When saving seeds, fermentation is not necessary and may be harmful to the viability of the seed.

Seeds purchased from A.P. Whaley Seed Company in 2019

Lacinato Kale

Brassica oleracea



Image from A.P. Whaley Seed Company website

About:

This variety has a long history traced back to Tuscany in the 18th Century. Also known as Dinosaur Kale or Tuscan Kale, this variety is a primitive open kale with 2 inches wide strapped leaves that are 10 inches long on 2-3 feet tall plants. Kale is very tolerant of cold temperatures and the flavor becomes sweeter after a hard frost.

Planting:

65-80 days.

Direct sow or start indoors and plant out just before last frost (early May). Sow seeds $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep, 2-4 inches apart, and in rows 30-36 inches apart. Thin plants to 18 inches apart when the seedlings are 2-3 inches tall.

Pick the leaves from the bottom up for continuous harvest.

Seed Collection:

Kale is biennial, meaning that it takes 2 years for the plant to complete its life cycle. In the fall, mulch your kale plants. In the spring, the kale will send out shoots and flower. After the flowers die back, long green pods will emerge. Let the pods turn brown and collect the pods. Inside the pods are the seeds.



Kale flower

Seeds purchased from A.P. Whaley Seed Company in 2019

Bronze Arrowhead Lettuce

Asteraceae



Image from Fedco Seeds website

About:

This plant is bright green with bronze colored leaves. This variety is considered one of the best loose leaf lettuces. Bronze Arrowhead is a popular base for salads during the summer months. This variety grows best in cooler weather.

Planting:

Produces in 46 days. This lettuce prefers partial shade.

Sow directly into prepared beds 2-4 weeks before the last expected frost (late April to early May). Use a trowel or a rake to gently make a ridge about 1/8 inch deep then sprinkle the seeds in a row. Rows should be about 6-12 inches apart.

To harvest, pinch or cut leaves just above the soil surface and allow to grow back. Continue harvesting over several months, or until plants begin to lose flavor. Once plants bolt (flowers), the harvestable leaves will become bitter.

Seed Collection:

Only collect seeds from slow bolting plants to produce progeny that **doesn't bolt early in the season. The seeds are ready to harvest when dry,** about 10-24 days after flowering. Rub the seeds from the stalk and remove the coarse plant material.

Slobolt Lettuce

Lactuca sativa



About:

A garden standard since 1946. The best flavored of all the Grand Rapids types and as the name implies, one of the slowest of all varieties to go to seed. Nice pleasant flavor, never bitter.

Planting:

45-55 days.

Direct sow in a sunny spot as soon as soil can be worked in the Spring (Early to mid-April). Plant seeds thinly in rows 12 inches apart. Thin

to 8-10 inches between plants.

To harvest, pinch or cut leaves just above the soil surface and allow to grow back. Continue harvesting over several months, or until plants begin to lose flavor. Once plants bolt (flowers), the harvestable leaves will become bitter.

Seed Collection:

Only collect seeds from slow bolting plants to produce progeny that **doesn't bolt early in the season. The seeds are ready to harvest when dry,** about 10-24 days after flowering. Rub the seeds from the stalk and remove the coarse plant material.

Seeds purchased from A.P. Whaley Seed Company in 2019

Bonanza Mix-Up Marigolds

Tagetes patula

About:

Marigolds are known for their pungent scent and bright orange blooms. This variety is a tricolor. Marigolds can be great flowers for a vegetable garden because they can deter small animals and some common pests from bothering your plants.

Planting:

Marigold may be grown from seed indoors and transplanted outside after frost, or sown directly in the garden after frost.



Image from Jung Seed website

To sow indoors, plant 4-6 weeks before the last frost (late April to early May). Sow seeds $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep in seed starting soil. Keep the soil moist but not too wet, and seedlings should emerge in 7-14 days. Thin seedlings to one seedling per cell when they have two sets of leaves. Thinning the plants will help the surviving plants thrive by giving their roots plenty of space to grow. Transplant hardened-off seedlings to the garden after the threat of frost **has passed (between Mother's Day to Memorial Day)**. Plant 6 inches to a foot apart.

Seed Collection:

Allow some of the blooms to turn brown. Pinch the withered petals of the flower between your thumb and index finger of one hand, and the base of the flower head with the other hand. Gently pull the withered petals. The petals should slide clear of the base with a bunch of pointy black spears attached which are the seeds. Place in a dry paper envelope so any moisture from the seeds can continue to dry.

Seeds donated at the end of the 2018 growing season

Dwarf Grey Sugar Pea

Pisum sativum

About:

This plant produces early and the pods are quick to mature. The sweet, tender pods can be commonly used in stir fry and salads.

Planting:

Produces pods in 60 days.

The plant produces broad pale green 3-4 inches edible pod and purple bi-colored blossoms. The vines grow 24-30 inches tall but do not require any staking. Although the plant will climb if you want to trellis it.

Sow direct seed 2-3 inches apart and ½ to 1 inch deep as soon as soil can be worked (mid-April). Rows should be 16-18 inches apart. Plant seeds in full sun.



Image from Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds website

Seed Collection:

Let a few green beans stay on the plant until they are brittle and dry. Then harvest the pods and let them dry for 1-2 weeks. Another method is to pull the entire plant up and hang to dry. Once the pods are dry, shell them being careful not to break the seed coats.

Seeds donated at the end of the 2018 growing season

Early Jalapeño Pepper

Capsicum annuum

WEAR GLOVES WHEN HANDLING SEEDS AND FRUIT



About:

Jalapeno plants produce spicy peppers about 3 inches long. The peppers should be harvested when bright green. The peppers can be prepared and eaten in a variety of tasty ways.

Planting:

Produces in 70 -90 days.

Different types of peppers will cross-pollinate so they must be separated by either caging or isolate by ½ mile.

Image from A.P. Whaley Seed Company website

Sow indoors 8 weeks before last frost (around the middle of March). Seeds will germinate in 14 days. Transplant outdoors after the danger of frost has passed (between **Mother's Day** and Memorial Day). Plant 12 inches apart in full sun.

Seed Collection:

Wear disposable gloves when handling seeds. They can irritate skin and eyes. Pick peppers which are fully ripe (turned red and about 3 weeks after the green fruit is harvested). Remove seeds and spread them on a screen to dry.

Seeds purchased from A.P. Whaley Seed Company in 2019

King of the North Pepper

Capsicum annuum



Image from A.P. Whaley Seed Company website

About:

This is most reliable bell pepper for northern gardeners and produces sturdy plants with heavy yields of blocky, thick walled, 3-4 lobed fruits that ripen from green to red. The ripe peppers are often prepared stuffed or eaten fresh out of the garden.

Planting:

Produces 70 days from transplant outdoors.

Avoid cross pollination with other peppers varieties.

The plant produces blocky, uniform fruits with a great sweet flavor. Start indoors 8 weeks before the last frost (around the middle of March). The seeds will germinate in 14 days. Plant outdoors after the threat of frost has passed 12-24 inches apart in full sun.

Seed Collection:

Pick peppers which are fully ripe (turned red and about 3 weeks after the green fruit is harvested). Remove seeds and spread them on a screen to dry.

Bloomsdale Spinach

Spinacia oleracea



Image from A.P. Whaley Seed Company website

About:

Spinach is one of the first crops to be sown in early spring. This quick-growing variety is a heavy yielder and is slow to bolt and withstands both heat and cold. Excellent for fresh eating or for canning.

Planting:

40-50 days.

Direct sow as soon as the soil can be worked in Spring (Early to mid-April). Sow again in late Summer for a Fall

harvest. Sow seeds $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep in rows 12-18 inches apart.

Do not thin for baby spinach. Thin to 4-6 inches apart for full size leaves.

Seed Collection:

Only collect seeds from slow bolting plants to produce progeny that **doesn't bolt early in the season. The seeds are ready to harvest when dry,** about 10-24 days after flowering. Rub the seeds from the stalk and remove the coarse plant material.

Amish Paste Tomato

Lycopersicon



Image from Burpee website

Transplant outdoors 24 -36 inches apart and cage, stake, or trellis. The plant produces bright red 8 -12 ounce fruits.

Seed Collection:

Harvest when fully ripe and squeeze the pulp and seeds from the fruit into a container. Add water and let ferment below 70 degrees for about 4 days stirring occasionally. Some seeds will float to the top and are not good for replanting. Throw these out. Drain the water and pulp collecting the seeds at the bottom. Spread in a single layer on a paper towel and let dry for 1 -2 weeks.

About:

Amish paste tomatoes are excellent sliced fresh, canned, or made into sauces. Amish paste is an indeterminate variety of tomato. Also called vining, this means that the tomato plant is prone to be larger and can reach heights of 10 feet. Be prepared to prune and use a large tomato cage.

Planting:

Indeterminate. Produces 85 days from transplant outdoors.

Start indoors 6 weeks before the last frost (around late March). The seeds germinate in 7 -14 days.

Wisconsin 55 Tomato

Solanum lycopersicum



Image from A.P. Whaley Seed Company website

About:

Released by the University of Wisconsin in 1946. Excellent all-purpose tomato, great for both canning and fresh eating. Still considered by many to be one of the best home and market tomatoes in the Madison, Wisconsin area. Medium-size round red fruits. Wisconsin 55 is an indeterminate variety of tomato. Also called vining, this means that the tomato plant is prone to be larger and can reach heights of 10 feet. Be prepared to prune and use a large tomato cage.

Planting:

Indeterminate. 80 days from transplant.

Start indoors 6 weeks before the last frost (around late March) and seeds will germinate in 7-14 days.

Transplant outdoors 24-36 inches apart and cage, stake, or trellis in full sun.

Seed Collection:

Harvest when fully ripe and squeeze the pulp and seeds from the fruit into a container. Add water and let ferment below 70 degrees for about 4 days stirring occasionally. Some seeds will float to the top and are not good for replanting. Throw these out. Drain the water and pulp collecting the seeds at the bottom. Spread in a single layer on a paper towel and let dry for 1-2 weeks.

Seeds purchased from A.P. Whaley Seed Company in 2019