

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
- Staro Chives
- Slobolt Cilantro
- Heirloom Dill
- Rosita Eggplant
- Heirloom Hollyhock
- Lacinato Kale
- Lemon Balm
- Slobolt Lettuce
- Bonanza Mix-Up Marigold
- Penelope Shelling Pea
- Early Jalapeno Pepper
- King of the North Pepper
- Early Scarlet Globe Radish
- Bloomsdale Spinach
- Tommy Toe 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 ¼-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.

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. This

bush bean will create a sturdy 16-18 inch tall bush with 5-6 inch beans.

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

Staro Chives

Allium schoenoprasum



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 75-85 days and is a hardy perennial.

Plant seeds in a sunny location in early spring (between Mother's Day and Memorial Day) 1/4 inch deep. Place 4-6 seeds every 6 inches or 1-2 seeds per inch. Thin to 2-3 plants every 2-8 inches. Mature plant grows 12-18 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.

Seeds purchased from Johnny's Selected Seeds in 2020

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 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 2019 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

Hollyhock

Alcea rosea

About:

Hollyhock is a classic cottage garden staple, that bloom mid-summer with numerous flowers on tall spikes. This variety is a biennial, meaning the plant completes its lifecycle over 2 years. Seeds are a variety of dark pink, light pink, and white.



Images from seed donator's garden

Planting:

Before starting seeds in spring, soak seeds in hot water (110 °F) for 12 hours. Hollyhock have hard shells and soaking them softens the shell making germination easier. Seeds sown in fall do not need to be soaked.



Seeds can be sown directly outdoors in fall or about a week before last frost (Early May). Sow at just ¼ inch deep and about 2 feet apart. Plant in full sun to partial shade. Due to their height, protect from winds and provide support such as a fence, wall, trellis, or stake.

If you want to start indoors, start seeds about 9 weeks before the last average frost date (mid-March). Seedlings can be placed outside two to three weeks after the last frost (early June).

Seed Collection:

Allow some of the flowers to go to seed. When the flowers have changed into large, brown pods, snap them off and drop them into a paper bag to dry out further. After a few days remove the seeds from the seed pods being careful to remove any chaff, the pods that hold the seeds.



Seeds donated at the end of the 2019 growing season

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

Lemon Balm

Melissa officinalis



Image from Johnny's Selected Seeds website

12 inches apart.

About:

Lemon Balm is an easy to grow herb. The plant attracts bees and the herb has a lemon flavor that is often used in teas and salads.

Planting:

70 days.

Sow in flats 6-8 weeks before the last frost (Late March to Early April). Tamp the seeds lightly into the soil, as seeds require light to germinate, and mist lightly. Transplant to individual pots when the seedlings have 4 true leaves. After the last frost, plant

Seed Collection:

After lemon balm blooms, the flowers will dry out and turn to seed. The seed pods will turn dark brown when they are ready to harvest. Carefully separate the dried stalks from the stem. Put the stalks upside down in a paper bag so that the seeds will drop when they are ready. After collecting the seeds, they can be stored inside of a paper bag in a dry.

Seeds purchased from Johnny's Selected Seeds in 2020

Slobolt Lettuce

Lactuca sativa



Image from A.P. Whaley Seed Company website

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

Penelope Shelling Pea

Pisum sativum

About:

Penelope has extra-long (average 4½ inches), fancy pods with 8-9 peas per pod. They are very easy to shell and very tasty! Peas are a cool weather crop.



Image from Johnny's Selected Seed website

Planting:

Produces pods in 59 days. The vines grow 34 inches tall and do not require any staking or extra support.

Direct sow in early spring as soon as the soil can be worked (mid-April). In well-drained soil, sow 1-1 ½ inches apart, ½ to 1 inch deep. Do not thin. Can be planted in rows that are 12 to 18 inches apart.

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 purchased from Johnny's Selected Seeds in 2020

Early Jalapeño Pepper

Capsicum annuum

WEAR GLOVES WHEN HANDLING SEEDS AND FRUIT



Image from A.P. Whaley Seed Company website

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.

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.

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

Early Scarlet Globe Radish

Raphanus sativus



Image from A.P. Whaley Seed Company website
and come up, thin to one plant every 2 inches.

About:

Well known home and market variety. Globe shaped, bright scarlet color, excellent for bunching. Very early, make successive plantings for a constant supply.

Planting:

Produces in 25-30 days.

Direct sow in early spring about 4-6 weeks before the last frost (mid to late April) in a spot with full sun to part shade. Sow seeds ½ inch depth 1 inch apart in rows about 12 inches apart. Once the radishes germinate

Radishes don't like heat. You can keep planting radishes every 10 days for a continuous harvest of radishes in the late spring to early summer. You can start planting again in late summer or early fall and finish your last crop 4-6 weeks before the first fall frost (beginning of September).

Seed Collection:

Let one or two of your radishes bolt. It will develop a flower and then a seed pod. Once the pod has dried out a little, cut it off the plant. Let dry in a paper bag for a few days and then separate the seeds from the pod.



Image from GardenNerd.com

Seeds purchased from A.P. Whaley Seed Company in 2020

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.

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

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 after danger of frost has passed (between Mother's Day and Memorial Day) 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

Tommy Toe Tomato

Solanum lycopersicum



Image from A.P. Whaley Seed Company website

About:

This humble cherry tomato has won many blue ribbons and taste tests around the world. Superb flavor, an absolute delight. Vigorous plants crank out hundreds of 1-inch tomatoes over the entire growing season.

Planting:

Indeterminate. 75 days from transplant.

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

Transplant outdoors after danger of frost has passed (between Mother's Day and Memorial Day) 24 inches apart in rows 3-4 feet 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.

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