

Welcome to the World of Saving and Sharing Seeds!

Borrowing Seeds

The seeds you borrow from The Seed Lending Library are lent to you at no financial cost, and **they are priceless.**

A commitment to growing plants from seeds is a gift to yourself. We hope you learn much, experience the joy of gardening, and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

At harvest time, please take some extra steps to save seeds for others. We ask that a portion of the seeds you save be returned to the seed lending library to keep the library self-sustaining. The more seeds in the library, the more members of our community can experience the pleasures of growing their own food.



Seed Saving Basics

- ☑ **No hybrids:** Do not save seeds from hybrids. Seeds saved from hybrids will not be true to the parent plant.
- ☑ **Dry seeds:** Except for tomatoes, peppers & eggplants, let seeds dry completely on the plant.
- ☑ **Reduce cross-pollination:** Grow only one variety of each species. Isolate by distance.
- ☑ **Healthy plants:** Always save seeds from the healthiest, “true-to-type” plants.



The seed is hope; the flower is joy.
- Author Unknown

Contact the Library

For more information contact the library at
519-376-6623 ext. 5207
www.osngupl.ca
cmарun@library.osngupl.ca

Welcome to the Seed Lending Library!



OUR MISSION:

The Seed Lending Library is dedicated to providing a free source of open pollinated vegetable and flower seeds to the community, supporting an active understanding of our food system through education and a culture of sharing.

Owen Sound & North Grey
Union Public Library
824 1st Ave West
Owen Sound, ON N4K 4K4
www.osngupl.ca

Monday 1pm-8pm
Tuesday - Thursday 10am -8pm
Friday & Saturday 10am-5pm

New to Seed Saving?

Start with seeds that are labeled **easiest** or **easy**. These seeds are great for beginners and produce plants like the ones you planted.

We recommend you start with these:

- basil
- beans
- beets
- carrots
- chard
- eggplant
- leeks
- lettuce
- onions
- parsley
- peas
- peppers
- spinach
- sunflowers
- tomatoes

The seeds that are labeled **advanced** require special planning to preserve varietal purity. If certain precautions are not taken with them, then the next grower will not get the same plant. We want to ensure that the seeds that you return to the library are indeed what they claim to be. So please borrow **advanced** seeds only after you have learned about isolating plants to prevent cross-pollination.



How to Borrow Seeds

The Seed Lending Library is available to all members with an up to date library card. Seeds are available in March until supplies last.

Save the label/envelope after planting so you can record this information on the seed envelopes that are returned. This removable label can be attached to the new envelope. *Please update any information so the label is accurate.

General Guidelines to Seed Saving

When it comes to seed saving you reap what you sow. If you harvest small tomatoes, you're likely to get small tomatoes. If you harvest the first tomatoes of the season, their offspring will be more likely to produce earlier in the season. When choosing which seeds to harvest consider the following:

- Vigor
- Taste
- Size
- Ability to tolerate drought, wind or other extreme conditions
- Ability to compete with weeds
- Early-, mid- or late-bearing fruit
- Long storage life
- Late to go to seed or bolt
- Good fruit texture
- Disease resistant
- Productivity
- Cold hardiness
- Resistance to insect pests
- Larger fruit or flowers
- Attractiveness
- Color
- Shape

After you save the seeds, make a note of why you chose those particular seeds, where you grew them, and when you harvested them. This process will help you to learn from your plants and to start creating the varieties that work best for your location.



How to Donate and Return Seeds

Please read the brochure, **How to Save Seeds**, available online or at the library.

Once you have collected seed from your crops, set aside some for yourself and some for the library in clearly labeled envelopes. Seeds should be stored in paper envelopes and kept in a cool, dry location.

Seeds for the library should be labeled with the following information:

- Common Name
- Scientific Name
- Variety
- Days to Maturity
- Year Saved
- Location Grown
- Notes (any special traits)

Drop off your seeds to a staff member at the Library any time.