

Our Mission

Our mission is to help nurture a thriving community of gardeners and seed savers and to introduce the joy of gardening to members of our community who are not already gardeners.

The Seed Library is a free program committed to increasing our ability to feed ourselves wholesome food. We offer seeds and education.

Through the time-honored tradition of seed saving, we celebrate biodiversity, nurture locally adapted, organically grown plant varieties, and foster community resilience, self-reliance, and a culture of sharing.

The seed library operates on the honor system. You become a member automatically when you withdraw seeds to plant.

We encourage all members to learn basic seed-saving techniques so that you can return seeds to the library. That will allow us to keep the library well stocked. If you are unable to save your own seeds, please donate a packet or two of fresh, commercially grown, open-pollinated (nonhybrid, nonGMO) seeds to keep our library self-sustaining.

Thank you to The Seed Library of Pima County Library, Davis Seed Savers Alliance, and Richmond Grows for their groundbreaking work, valuable help, generosity, and inspiration.

For More Information

Check out these books.

Seed to Seed, by Suzanne Ashworth, Seed Savers Exchange, 2002. This book, which gives information on saving all the common vegetable seeds, is essential if you're saving seeds of heirloom varieties.

Breed Your Own Vegetable Varieties, by Carol Deppe, Chelsea Green, 2000.

The Organic Seed Grower: A Farmer's Guide to Vegetable Seed Production, by John Navazio, Chelsea Green, 2012.

Organic Seed Production and Saving: The Wisdom of Plant Heritage, by Brian Connolly, Chelsea Green, 2011.

Garden Seed Inventory, Seed Savers Exchange, 2005.

The New Seed Starters' Handbook, by Nancy Bubel, Rodale Books, 1988.

Explore these websites.

<http://www.seedsavers.org/>
<http://howtosaveseeds.com/>
<http://www.seedalliance.org/>

The Seed Library

Located in the Round Valley Public Library
23925 Howard Street (Post Office Box 620)
Covelo, CA 95428
Phone 707.983.6736
seeds@roundvalley.org

The Seed Library

A Seed-Lending Program at the Round Valley Public Library

Welcome to the world of saving and sharing seed!

The seeds you borrow from our library are lent to you at no financial cost, and yet they are priceless.

A commitment to growing plants for seed is a gift to yourself and your family. We hope you learn much, experience the joys of gardening, and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

At harvest time, please take some steps to save seeds for others. We ask that a portion of your seeds from the strongest, tastiest, and most vigorous plants be returned to The Seed Library to keep the library self-sustaining. The more seed we have in our library, the greater the number of people in our community who will be able to experience the joys of growing their own food.

Why Save Seeds?

People have been saving seed for more than 12,000 years. However, in our culture, much seed-saving knowledge, along with significant biodiversity, has been lost over the last hundred years. When you grow, save, and share your own seed, you promote seed sovereignty by:

- *Increasing the genetic diversity of your own seed stock*
- *Developing seed stock that is more resilient and better adapted to our particular climate and soil*
- *Perpetuating the knowledge and culture of seed saving*
- *Providing seed to others in our community*

How to Find Seeds in Our Seed Catalog

In the seed catalog, the seeds are alphabetized first by common name and then by variety. For example, under the broad category of Tomato, all the tomato varieties are alphabetized by variety ('Amish Paste' comes before 'Brandywine', which is followed by 'Chico').

The dividers for each type of plant (bean, lettuce, tomato) contain information about seed saving, including that plant's seed-saving "difficulty level." A green label indicates it is "easy" seed to save. A yellow label indicates "medium" difficulty, and a red label indicates it is appropriate for "advanced" seed savers.

It is wise to begin with "easy" seeds to make sure you will be able to bring some back at the end of the season!

New to Seed Saving?

Be sure to start with seeds that are labeled "easy" and learn the basics of seed saving. We ask that beginning seed savers grow out and return seeds from lettuce, tomato, bean, or pea plants the first year.

"Medium" and "advanced" seeds require special planning to preserve the purity of the variety. If you return seeds to the library without taking certain precautions, they will not produce plants that are true to type.

Read up on the subject. Begin with our brochure "How to Save Seed."

The books ***Seed to Seed*** by Suzanne Ashworth and ***Breed Your Own Vegetable Varieties*** by Carol Deppe are highly recommended. Our library has these and several other books on seed saving available for checkout.

How to Borrow Seeds

Fill out and turn in a Membership Form and complete a Member's Seed Record (in the blue binder), available on top of the seed catalog. Each time you take seeds, enter the information on your Member's Seed Record.

Make sure **all** the information is filled out on the seed envelope of the seeds you want to borrow. Good record keeping is essential to the success of our program.

The Seed Library works well only if we know the identity and origin of the seeds we borrow and donate.

Returning Seeds

It is important that seeds coming back into the collection are grown and saved properly to ensure that the purity of each variety remains intact.

Plant and harvest. Let some plants go to seed. Save seeds for yourself and the library.

Seeds for the library should be donated in the seed envelopes available at the library.

Write **all** the information for the seeds you want to donate on the envelopes.

Add the information to your Member's Seed Record and place your seed envelopes in the Incoming Seed box under the seed catalog drawers.

Interested in Helping Out?

We are looking for volunteers to help with:

- *Seed sorting and repacking*
- *Organizing or leading workshops*
- *Mentoring new gardeners and seed savers*
- *Facilitating seed library orientations*
- *Translating information into Spanish*
- *And much more!*