



How to save seeds

Why we save seeds

Saving seeds and propagating from open-pollinated plants through generations, means that each generation will adapt to the local environment. This practice promotes crop health and diversity.

Saving seeds is easy and if done correctly will ensure that seeds can be saved for a long time.

The healthiest and strongest plants

You want to choose the best of your crop to go to seed. The healthiest and strongest plants are the ones that are suited to the local environment and will have the strongest children.

Collecting seeds

Collecting seeds from pods, such as from peas and beans, is simple. This is a good way to teach children about collecting seeds. Collect from older pods, simply open and check that they are undamaged.

Seeds collected from fleshy fruits, such as from tomatoes and cucumbers, need to be cleaned thoroughly and dried. Scoop out the seeds and clean then with water. Let the seeds dry on a paper towel. It is important that they are clean and dry to ensure they don't rot.

Small dry seeds, such as from parsley and basil, don't require any preparation. Either cut the head of the plant or grab with your hand and place in a bag. These seeds should be stored in paper not plastic otherwise they will rot.

Storing seeds

Seeds need to be kept clean and dry so they do not rot. Keep in glass containers or paper bags. You can use dry rice or silica gel packets to keep the moisture at bay.

Donating seeds

We welcome any seed donations at Eastwood Library and have recycled packets available for you to use to donate seeds.



Find out more about seed saving

For more on how seeds need to be prepared see this Gardening Australia article www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/seed-saving-secrets/13239606

Or borrow a book on seed saving

The complete guide to saving seeds : 322 vegetables, herbs, flowers, fruits, trees and shrubs by Robert Gough