

Our Vision

Seeds contain stories, recipes and a way of life that is passed from one gardener to the next. By offering a collection of heirloom seeds to grow, harvest, and return, we hope to inspire a community of growers who learn to save seed for continued and future use. By continuing the time-honored cultural tradition of seed saving we hope to inspire a sense of heritage and a community of giving among local farmers, neighborhood gardeners, and anyone interested in growing food, herbs, and flowers.

Choosing Seeds

“Easy” seeds are great for beginner gardeners who are ready to learn to save seeds. “Easy” plants require less work to obtain good seeds.

“Advanced” seeds will take more work and planning.

If you are a beginning gardener, don't worry about seed saving right now. We want you to select seeds you'd like to grow. We hope you'll be inspired to learn about seed saving and give it a try sometime.

Our Locations

To browse seeds, visit:

Cedaredge Library

180 SW 6th Avenue
Cedaredge, CO 81413
(970) 399-7674

Crawford Library

545 Highway 92
Crawford, CO 81415
(970) 399-7783

Delta Library

211 W 6th Street
Delta, CO 81416
(970) 874-9630

Hotchkiss Library

149 E Main Street
Hotchkiss, CO 81419
(970) 399-7781

Paonia Library

2 3rd Street
Paonia, CO 81428
(970) 399-7881



Seeds can also be requested online at www.deltalibraries.org

A big thank you to all of our seed library sponsors:

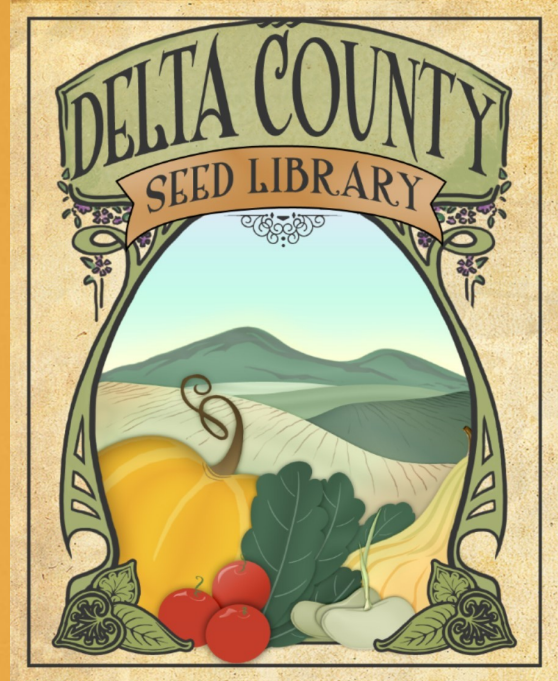


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Saving Seeds



Techniques and tips for saving seeds from your garden

Returning Seeds

Remember, you don't have to return seeds, but if you'd like to give it a try, place seeds for the Library in clearly labelled envelopes or containers. Fill out our seed donation form online to return with your seeds. The more information you provide the better we can track our seed success.

Bring your seeds to any Delta County Library so we can get them ready for others to check out next spring.

We'd also love to see photos you take throughout the growing process. Share your success, from seed to table!



Saving Seeds

At harvest time please consider bringing seeds back to share with the community. Allow seeds to fully mature for seed saving.

Dry Seed Processing

For seeds that grow on the outside of the plant or in a dry seed pod (i.e. peas, beans, arugula, etc.):

- Allow seeds to dry on the plant, collecting seed pods before they break open.
- When the stem-holding seed head turns brown, harvest the seeds

Tip: Collect dry seeds when it is warm and dry to prevent mold.

Wet Seed Processing

For seeds that grow inside the fleshy fruit of the plant:

- Be sure to let the fruit fully mature; Most fruits will need to ripen past the point you would harvest for eating.
- Rinse off seeds and dry them thoroughly.

- If the seeds have a gel-like coating, use the fermentation process.

Tip: If you are unsure whether or not your seeds have a coating, float them in a small amount of water. You'll be able to see the coating in the water.

Fermentation Seed Processing

For seeds with a gel-like coating:

- Mix seeds and juices with a little water in a small container
- Allow to ferment for 4-6 days
- When a layer of mold forms and the seeds sink, fermentation is complete. Add more water, swish to remove mold and pulp. The good seed will sink to the bottom and the bad seeds will float to the top. Remove the bad seeds.
- Drain the water and set the seeds to dry on a plate or screen. Once the seeds have dried completely, place them in a moisture-proof container.

Tip: Use the fermentation process for tomatoes, cucumbers, some squash and melons