

# Organic Seed Saving

A guide to saving seeds from your own garden to maintain an organic seed supply for future planting. It includes steps to select, harvest, process, and store seeds effectively.

## Step 1: **Plant Selection**

Identify healthy, non-hybrid (open-pollinated) plants with desirable traits from your garden. These will be your seed sources.

## Step 2: **Seed Harvesting**

Carefully collect the seeds at the right time, which varies by plant species. Some seeds may be dry-harvested while others may require wet-harvesting.

## Step 3: **Seed Cleaning**

Remove the seeds from the surrounding plant material and clean them to promote good storage conditions. This may include techniques like threshing, winnowing, or washing.

## Step 4: **Seed Drying**

Spread the seeds out in a warm, dry place away from direct sunlight to thoroughly dry them. This process can take several days.

## Step 5: **Labeling**

Label your seeds with the plant name, variety, and date of harvest to keep track of your inventory.

## Step 6: **Seed Storage**

Store seeds in a cool, dry, and dark place in properly sealed containers to maintain viability for future planting.

## **General Notes**

### **Seed Viability**

Not all seeds have the same shelf life. Check the viability period for each variety to optimize your planting schedule.

### **Cross-Pollination**

Be mindful of the possibility of cross-pollination, which can affect the purity of the seeds. Use strategies like buffer zones or timing techniques if necessary.

### **Local Adaptation**

Over time, saving seeds from plants that do well in your local conditions can lead to a seed stock that is better adapted to your specific environment.