



WHAT TYPE OF SEEDS SHOULD I SAVE?

Information provided by Richmond Grows Seed Library
<http://www.richmondgrowsseeds.org/new-to-seed-saving.html>

Seeds require different levels of work, experience and space to save. So what are the best seeds for you to save? We encourage people to start with what we've labeled as the "super easy" plants.

Super Easy: Easy Peas-y

These seeds can most reliably be saved by the home gardener, even if you've never saved seeds before. Peas, Beans, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Arugula - (crosses with wild arugula), Dill - (crosses with wild dill)
Watch our videos on Peas and Beans and Lettuce to help you get started.

Easy: Takes a little time & know-how

Some plants are biennials, which means they produce seeds the second growing season. **These are still suitable for some beginners.** The issue is do you have the space! Many of these require large populations and isolation from things that could cross-pollinate with them. Check out the resources on our Seed Saving page.

- Beets and chard - these are the same species; not many people save seed, so they are relatively easy at the moment. No crossing from neighbors.
- Parsley
- Parsnips
- Carrots - not practical for most home gardeners to save since they need to overwinter and you need to have a population of at least 50 carrots and no Queen Anne's Lace around (wild relative)

Peppers - not a biennial, but can cross with other peppers; plant only one variety of a species (need 450 ft distance from other varieties)

Difficult: You don't always reap what you sow

Some plants cross-pollinate; that means that if there is another variety around they can pollinate each other and the seeds you save will not be what you originally planted. These plants need to be isolated by large distances or hand-pollinated.

Cucurbits (squash, pumpkins, cucumbers and melons) are not hard to save seeds from, but you need to hand-pollinate them and have large separations. We have labeled them "difficult" because you need to take steps to ensure that insects don't pollinate them. If you don't hand-pollinate cucurbits, you can't assure that they have not been cross-pollinated by another variety. Broccoli, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Kale, Brussels sprouts - all are in the same family--*Brassica oleracea*

All of the above are the same species and are insect pollinated. If any of these are flowering at the same time, cross-pollination is likely. You need to bag or isolate the different varieties.