

# Seed Saving

## Why Save Seeds?

By saving seeds year after year your plants adapt to the specific climate, soil, and environmental conditions where you live and grow. This is especially true in more extreme climate areas



## How Do Save Your Seeds?

Allow the fruit to mature and then collect the seeds from dried up flowers or from your fruit

## What Does this Mean?

### Fruit

- This means collecting the seeds from inside the fully mature fruit



- Perhaps letting the fruit that you intend to collect from ripen extra. This ensures that the plant will store as much energy in the seed as possible. The more energy invested in the seed, the stronger and more vigorous the seedling will be.

### Vegetables

- Seeds from veggies aren't usually in fleshy fruit like fruit seeds (ex: Apples, Oranges, etc.)



- To get seeds from veggies allow your veggies to bolt, flower, be pollinated, and then dry up and collect

**Bolting:** When a low growing plant which usually doesn't display flowers, goes through a rapid change in form and grows a tall stalk. At the end of this stalk there are flower buds which soon bloom.

**Note:** Veggies usually become quite bitter once they bolt, most choose not to continue to harvest from these plants at this point.



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# Seed Saving Do's & Don'ts

## Do's:

- Keep your seeds in a cool dry place
- Harvest seeds from well developed fruit & from dried out flowers
- Use seeds within a few years of collecting

## Don'ts:

- Expose your seeds to high temperatures or to temp fluctuations
- Keep them somewhere damp
- Keep them exposed to sunlight, prior to planting

**Viability:** The odds that a seed will germinate

- A seed with **HIGH** viability means it is very likely to successfully germinate, or successfully sprout from seed to plant
- A seed with **LOW** viability means it is unlikely or not very likely to successfully germinate.



## Additional Notes:

- Remember that similar plants will breed with each other (aka hybridize). If you have two varieties of a plant in the same garden and you collect seeds, the seeds that you are collecting will likely not be true to their variety, but a mixture of the two plants that you have in your garden
  - Bees will travel and carry many types of pollen on them. To avoid cross-pollination, if you plant to keep your seeds true to their variety, plant your different varieties in different gardens
- Allowing different varieties to be cross pollinated can produce interesting and different varieties
- If growing for seed, remember that bees will travel. If your neighbor down the street is growing a similar variety, it's not impossible that your local pollinators won't cross your varieties
- Wind can carry the pollen of wind pollinated plants quite far. Keep this in mind when planting wind pollinated plants.



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