

Growing Guide

In this Growing Guide, you will find basic growing information for all the seeds available in the Seed Library.

Please plan on saving your seeds to help us replenish the collection for next year!

If you are new to seed saving, please note the level assigned to each type of seed. The levels are as follows:

Basic: These vegetables offer the beginning seed saver the best chance for successful seed saving. They produce seed the same season as planted and are mostly self-pollinating, minimizing the need to be mindful of preventing cross-pollination. These seeds include: Bean, Lettuce, Pea, Pepper, Tomato.

Experienced

The experienced seed saver's vegetables produce seed the season they are planted but require separation to keep unwanted cross-pollination from taking place. These seeds include: Corn, Cucumber, Muskmelon, Radish, Spinach, Squash/Pumpkin.

Expert

The expert gardener's vegetables normally require more than one year for seed production and mandate separation to prevent cross-pollination. These seeds include: Beet, Swiss Chard, Cabbage Family, Carrot, Escarole, Onion, Radicchio/Endive, Turnip.

ARTICHOKE (None in 2026)

Artichokes are eaten as buds, before they begin to flower.

Varieties available:

Tavor

Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Volume of seeds per packet: 4 Seeds

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Starting indoors and transplanting outside Is Recommended

- Start seeds 8 – 10 weeks before the last frost.
- Soil Depth: 1/4".
- Distance between Seeds: 12"
- Distance between Rows: 3 – 4"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 70-80

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

Artichokes are biennials and need to be overwintered.



ASIAN GREENS

Asian greens are delicious steamed, stir-fried, or in soups and provide a tasty and mildly tangy flavor.

Varieties available:

Chijimisai, Ching Chiang, Japanese Giant Red Mustard, Mitsuba, Tat Soi

Please note: *Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Volume of seeds per packet: 1/4 teaspoon

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Either

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: Spring, after danger of hard frost.
- Soil Depth: 1/4".
- Distance between Seeds: 1"
- Distance between Rows: 24-30"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 40 -55
- Thin to 6" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Experienced)

Asian greens are biennial, so must be overwintered and seeds collected the 2nd year. They are also likely to cross pollinate with turnips, so must be isolated 1/4 mile.

When seedpods are brown and dry, strop seedpods from stalk and break them open to release seeds. Separate seeds from chaff with a colander or winnow.



ARUGULA

Arugula grows well in the spring and fall but tends to bolt in hot weather. Its prolific flowers attract many pollinators before plants go to seed. Gardeners enjoy this cool-weather crop for its nutty and peppery bite.

Varieties available:

Astro

Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Volume of seeds per packet: 1/4 teaspoon

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Either

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: Spring, after danger of hard frost.
- Soil Depth: 1/4".
- Distance between Seeds: 1"
- Distance between Rows: 24-30"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 40 -55
- Thin to 6" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Experienced)

When saving seeds from arugula, separate varieties by at least 800 feet. To ensure viable seeds, save seeds from at least 5 different arugula plants.

The seed heads of arugula will turn light brown and become brittle at maturity. When most seed heads have matured, seed stalks can be cut and piled onto row cover or landscape fabric in a location protected from rain to finish maturing and drying. The harvested stalks should be dried until the seeds become too hard to dent with a fingernail.

Arugula seeds can be threshed by placing branches on a tarp or in a large container and treading on them, or by rubbing seed stalks together between one's hands. If the pods are dry, they will release their seeds easily. Seeds can be further cleaned by screening and winnowing.



BARLEY (none in 2026)

Barley is a grain that can be harvested, malted, kilned, and roasted for an essential ingredient in home brewing.

Varieties available:

Please note: *Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Volume of seeds per packet: ½ teaspoon

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Direct sowing is recommended.

- Recommended planting date range: March/April
- Soil Depth: 1/4"
- Distance between Seeds: 3-4"
- Distance between Rows: 18-24"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 50 degrees
- Thin to 6" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Once grain is dried, beat stems to free seeds.



BEAN, BUSH

It's not summer until you have plenty of fresh beans! Beans also can or freeze well to enjoy through the winter.

Varieties available: Forrester Romano, Gold Rush, Pencil Pod Wax, Provider, Royal Burgandy, Slenderette

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served.

Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number of seeds per packet: 30

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: After frost has passed.
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Distance between Seeds: 3-4"
- Distance between Rows: 24-30"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 70-75
- Thin to 6"-8" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Although, ideally, different varieties should be separated by 150 feet or another crop flowering at the same time, we rarely observe cross-pollination even when two varieties of beans are grown next to each other.

Allow pods to dry brown before harvesting, about six weeks after eating stage. If frost threatens, pull entire plant, root first, and hang in cool, dry location until pods are brown.

Small amounts of pods can be opened by hand. Flail larger amounts. Remove large chaff by hand or fork. Winnow remaining particles.



BEAN, DRY

Use dry beans in homemade soups.

Varieties available: Pinto

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number of seeds per packet: 30

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: After frost has passed.
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Distance between Seeds: 3-4"
- Distance between Rows: 24-30"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 70-75
- Thin to 6"-8" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Although, ideally, different varieties should be separated by 150 feet or another crop flowering at the same time, we rarely observe cross-pollination even when two varieties of beans are grown next to each other.

Allow pods to dry brown before harvesting, about six weeks after eating stage. If frost threatens, pull entire plant, root first, and hang in cool, dry location until pods are brown.

Small amounts of pods can be opened by hand. Flail larger amounts. Remove large chaff by hand or fork. Winnow remaining particles.



BEAN, LIMA

Varieties available: Henderson Baby

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Number of seeds per packet: 30

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: After frost has passed.
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Distance between Seeds: 3-4"
- Distance between Rows: 24-30"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 70-75
- Thin to 6"-8" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Although, ideally, different varieties should be separated by 150 feet or another crop flowering at the same time, we rarely observe cross-pollination even when two varieties of beans are grown next to each other.

Allow pods to dry brown before harvesting, about six weeks after eating stage. If frost threatens, pull entire plant, root first, and hang in cool, dry location until pods are brown.

Small amounts of pods can be opened by hand. Flail larger amounts. Remove large chaff by hand or fork. Winnow remaining particles.

BEAN, ROMA (None in 2026)

It's not summer until you have plenty of fresh beans! Beans also can or freeze well to enjoy through the winter.

Varieties available: Roma II

Please note: *supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Number of seeds per packet: 30

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: After frost has passed.
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Distance between Seeds: 3-4"
- Distance between Rows: 24-30"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 70-75
- Thin to 6"-8" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Although, ideally, different varieties should be separated by 150 feet or another crop flowering at the same time, we rarely observe cross-pollination even when two varieties of beans are grown next to each other.

Allow pods to dry brown before harvesting, about six weeks after eating stage. If frost threatens, pull entire plant, root first, and hang in cool, dry location until pods are brown.

Small amounts of pods can be opened by hand. Flail larger amounts. Remove large chaff by hand or fork. Winnow remaining particles.



BEAN, POLE

Space saving pole beans let you grow your crop upwards for easy picking and visual interest in your garden.

Varieties available: Varieties available: Rattlesnake, Scarlet Emperor Runner



No Hobbs Goose Beans in 2026 due to crop failure

The story behind Hobb's Goose Beans: In the early 1800s, Absalom Hobbs shot a goose in Lee County, a triangle on the western tip of Virginia in the Appalachian mountains.

Inside the goose's crop, Absalom found a white bean freckled with red splotches. He planted it and the resulting buttery bean became a family favorite. Absalom passed it on to his children, who passed it to theirs, eventually landing with Clinton Hobbs, who brought it to Kent OH when he became a biology professor at Kent State in 1945. Hobbs, his wife Olive and their 4 children grew the beans on their Brimfield OH property a remnant of the WWII victory gardens. He shared the beans with neighbors and friends, and is said to have instructed everyone to share the beans with their neighbors and friends. The beans are delicious as green beans, butter beans, or dried.

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number of seeds per packet: 30

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Direct Sowing is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: After frost has passed.
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Distance between Seeds: 3-4"
- Distance between Rows: 24-30"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 70-75
- Thin to 6"-8" inches between plants
- For a traditional "tee pee" pole, plant seeds around a pole in a 6' diameter circle. When plants have their first set of true leaves, tie one end of a 6-8' string to the plant and the other to the top of the pole.

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Although, ideally, different varieties should be separated by 150 feet or another crop flowering at the same time, we rarely observe cross-pollination even when two varieties of beans are grown next to each other.

Allow pods to dry brown before harvesting, about six weeks after eating stage. If frost threatens, pull entire plant, root first, and hang in cool, dry location until pods are brown.

Small amounts of pods can be opened by hand. Flail larger amounts. Remove large chaff by hand or fork. Winnow remaining particles.

BEAN, RUNNER (In Pole Beans)

Runner Beans are climbers often grown as ornamentals for their brilliant scarlet blossoms that attract hummingbirds. Need trellises, fences or poles; will grow to 10–12'. Half runners combine the growing habits of a bush bean with those of a pole bean, and about half the height of full runners.

Varieties available: Scarlet Emperor

Please note: *Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Number of seeds per packet: 10

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Direct Sowing is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: After frost has passed.
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Distance between Seeds: 6-8"
- Distance between Rows: 24-30"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 70-75
- When plants have their first set of true leaves, tie one end of a 6-8' string to the plant and the other to the top of a pole, or provide other support.

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Although, ideally, different varieties should be separated by 150 feet or another crop flowering at the same time, we rarely observe cross-pollination even when two varieties of beans are grown next to each other.

Allow pods to dry brown before harvesting, about six weeks after eating stage. If frost threatens, pull entire plant, root first, and hang in cool, dry location until pods are brown.

Small amounts of pods can be opened by hand. Flail larger amounts. Remove large chaff by hand or fork. Winnow remaining particles.



BEAN, WAX (in Bush Beans)

It's not summer until you have plenty of fresh beans! Beans also can or freeze well to enjoy through the winter.

Varieties available:

Please note: *supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Number of seeds per packet: 30

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: After frost has passed.
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Distance between Seeds: 3-4"
- Distance between Rows: 24-30"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 70-75
- Thin to 6"-8" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Although, ideally, different varieties should be separated by 150 feet or another crop flowering at the same time, we rarely observe cross-pollination even when two varieties of beans are grown next to each other.

Allow pods to dry brown before harvesting, about six weeks after eating stage. If frost threatens, pull entire plant, root first, and hang in cool, dry location until pods are brown.

Small amounts of pods can be opened by hand. Flail larger amounts. Remove large chaff by hand or fork. Winnow remaining particles.



BEET

Delicious beets are very good for you, containing potassium, folic acid, manganese, and lots of fiber; and edible beet greens offer vitamins A and C, calcium, and iron. Don't forget to eat the greens!

Varieties available: Cylindra, Touchstone Gold

Please note: *Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Volume of seeds per packet: 30 seeds

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Direct sowing is recommended.

- Recommended planting date range: March/April or June to September for a fall crop
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Distance between Seeds: 1-2"
- Distance between Rows: 18-24"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 50 degrees
- Thin to 4" inches between plants
- Beets need plenty of moisture.

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

Grow seed for only one variety of beet or Swiss chard at any one time. Seed to seed: Mulch first year crop in the fall to ensure winter survival. The following spring, thin to 18" spacing. Root to seed: Harvest roots in fall. Select desirable roots and trim tops 1-2" above root. Store at 40° F. in humid location. Replant in early spring at 18" intervals with tops just showing above the soil.

Save seed from at least 6 different beets to ensure genetic diversity and vigor.

Cut 4' tall tops just above the root when majority flowering clusters have turned brown. Tops can be stored in cool, dry locations for 2-3 weeks to encourage further seed ripening.

Small quantities of seed can be stripped by hand as seed matures. Large numbers of tops can be put into a cloth bag and stomped or pounded. Chaff can be winnowed.



BROCCOLI

A tasty and healthy vegetable used raw or cooked.

Varieties available: Umpqua, Waltham

Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Volume of seeds per packet: 10 Seeds

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: Start indoors March - May
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 68-86°
- Recommended transplant date range: Transplant May - July
- Distance between transplants: 2 - 3 feet apart
- Distance between Rows: 2 - 3 feet

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

All vegetables and varieties in the brassicus species (broccoli, brussels sprout, cauliflower, cabbage and kale) will cross with each other. Separate different varieties at least 1000 feet for satisfactory results or at least 1 mile for purity. Plant at least 6 different plants (of one variety) to protect vigor and ensure a reasonable amount of genetic diversity.

Plants to be left for seed production should be mulched in the fall or carefully dug, trimmed and stored for the winter in humid area with temperatures between 35-40° F. Flowering plants can reach 4' in height and need at least 2' spacing for good seed production.

Heads grown for seed should not be trimmed for consumption. Allow individual pods to dry to a light brown color before picking and opening by hand.

Smash unopened pods in cloth bag with mallet or by walking on them. Chaff can be winnowed.

BRUSSELS SPROUT (none in 2026)

A must for the holiday dinner table.

Varieties available:

Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Volume of seeds per packet: 20 Seeds

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: Start indoors March - May
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 68-86°
- Recommended transplant date range: Transplant May - July
- Distance between transplants: 2 - 3 feet apart
- Distance between Rows: 2 - 3 feet

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

All vegetables and varieties in the brassicus species (broccoli, brussels sprout, cauliflower, cabbage and kale) will cross with each other. Separate different varieties at least 1000 feet for satisfactory results or at least 1 mile for purity. Plant at least 6 different plants (of one variety) to protect vigor and ensure a reasonable amount of genetic diversity.

Plants to be left for seed production should be mulched in the fall or carefully dug, trimmed and stored for the winter in humid area with temperatures between 35-40° F. Flowering plants can reach 4' in height and need at least 2' spacing for good seed production.

Heads grown for seed should not be trimmed for consumption. Allow individual pods to dry to a light brown color before picking and opening by hand.

Smash unopened pods in cloth bag with mallet or by walking on them. Chaff can be winnowed.

CABBAGE

Great grated in slaw or fermented into kraut.

Varieties available: Amarant

Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Volume of seeds per packet: 1/4 t

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: 6 – 8 weeks
- Soil Depth: ½”
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 68-86°
- Recommended transplant date range: Transplant late May, early June
- Distance between transplants: 1 - 2 feet apart
- Distance between Rows: 2 - 3 feet

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

All vegetables and varieties in the brassicus species (broccoli, brussels sprout, cauliflower, cabbage and kale) will cross with each other. Separate different varieties at least 1000 feet for satisfactory results or at least 1 mile for purity. Plant at least 6 different plants (of one variety) to protect vigor and ensure a reasonable amount of genetic diversity.

Plants to be left for seed production should be mulched in the fall or carefully dug, trimmed and stored for the winter in humid area with temperatures between 35-40° F. Flowering plants can reach 4' in height and need at least 2' spacing for good seed production.

Heads grown for seed should not be trimmed for consumption. Allow individual pods to dry to a light brown color before picking and opening by hand.

Smash unopened pods in cloth bag with mallet or by walking on them. Chaff can be winnowed.



CARROT

A tasty and healthy vegetable used raw or cooked.

Varieties available: Cosmic Purple, Danvers 126, Kyoto Red, Nantes Supreme, Rodelika, Short n Sweet, Yellowstone

Please note: *supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Volume of seeds per packet: 1/4 teaspoon

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Direct Sowing is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: Starting late April
- Soil Depth: ¼"
- Distance between Seeds: 1"
- Distance between Rows: 18-24"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 40
- Thin to 3" inches between plants
- Can take up to 3 weeks to germinate; keep rows from drying out for faster emergence. Sow carrots for winter storage in mid-late June.

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

Separate different varieties at least 1/2 mile to ensure purity. (Queen Anne's Lace or wild carrot will cross with garden carrot.) Seed to seed: Plant seeds in mid-summer. Finger-sized carrots are more winter hardy than full-grown carrots. Mulch in late-fall to ensure winter survival. Thin to 30" spacing in the spring. Root to seed: Harvest eating-sized roots in fall for replanting in fall or early spring. Mulch if planted in fall. Clip tops to 1 -2" and store at 35-40° F. in humid location or layered in sawdust or sand. Replant roots with desirable characteristics 30" apart with soil just covering shoulders.

Save and mix seed from as many different carrots of one variety as possible.

Hand pick each umbel as it dries brown. Clean small amounts by rubbing between hands. Larger amounts can be beaten from stalks and umbels. Screen and winnow to clean. Carrot seed is naturally hairy or "bearded."



CAULIFLOWER

Varieties available: Romanesca Italia

Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Volume of seeds per packet: ¼ t

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: 6 – 8 weeks
- Soil Depth: ½”
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 68-86°
- Recommended transplant date range: Transplant late May, early June
- Distance between transplants: 1 - 2 feet apart
- Distance between Rows: 2 - 3 feet

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

All vegetables and varieties in the brassicus species (broccoli, brussels sprout, cauliflower, cabbage and kale) will cross with each other. Separate different varieties at least 1000 feet for satisfactory results or at least 1 mile for purity. Plant at least 6 different plants (of one variety) to protect vigor and ensure a reasonable amount of genetic diversity.

Plants to be left for seed production should be mulched in the fall or carefully dug, trimmed and stored for the winter in humid area with temperatures between 35-40° F. Flowering plants can reach 4' in height and need at least 2' spacing for good seed production.

Heads grown for seed should not be trimmed for consumption. Allow individual pods to dry to a light brown color before picking and opening by hand.

Smash unopened pods in cloth bag with mallet or by walking on them. Chaff can be winnowed.

CELERY

Varieties available: Pink Plume

Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Volume of seeds per packet: 1/8 t

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: 10 - 12 weeks
- Soil Depth: 1/4"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 68-86°
- Recommended transplant date range: Transplant late May, early June
- Distance between transplants: 6" apart
- Distance between Rows: 18' apart

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

Plants to be left for seed production should be mulched in the fall. The following spring, the plants will flower and produce seeds. Harvest when the seed heads turn dry and brown. Rub umbrels between your hands to separate seeds.

CHARD (none in 2026)

Leafy green in the Chenopodiaceae family. Prefers loose, well drained fertile soil with a pH of 6.2-6.8. Delicious raw or cooked, and good in Pasta sauces, Soup & Stew.

Varieties available:

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Number of seeds per packet: 30 seeds

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Either

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: After frost has passed.
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Distance between Seeds: 10"
- Distance between Rows: 18-24"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 55-75
- Thin to 10" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

Grow seed for only one variety of beet or Swiss chard at any one time. Seed to seed: Mulch first year crop in the fall to ensure winter survival. The following spring, thin to 18" spacing. Root to seed: Harvest roots in fall. Select desirable roots and trim tops 1-2" above root. Store at 40° F. in humid location. Replant in early spring at 18" intervals with tops just showing above the soil.

Save seed from at least 6 different chard plants to ensure genetic diversity and vigor.

Cut 4' tall tops just above the root when majority flowering clusters have turned brown. Tops can be stored in cool, dry locations for 2-3 weeks to encourage further seed ripening.

Small quantities of seed can be stripped by hand as seed matures. Large numbers of tops can be put into a cloth bag and stomped or pounded. Chaff can be winnowed.

COLLARDS (none in 2026)

A staple of southern cooking, collards are strong flavored leaves. The young leaves can be harvested as the plant grows for salads, soups and other recipes.

Varieties available:

Please note: *Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Number or volume of seeds per packet: 20 seeds

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: 4 - 6 weeks
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 68-86°
- Recommended transplant date range: Transplant late May, early June
- Distance between transplants: 1 - 2 feet apart
- Distance between Rows: 2 1/2 - 3 feet

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

Collards are a biennial plant, so must be overwintered to go to seed. Will cross-pollinate; separate varieties by at least 800 feet in their second year. To ensure viable seeds, save seeds from at least five plants.

In fall, carefully dig up the entire plant, roots and all. Trim off outer leaves, with the growing point left intact. Replanted into containers filled with slightly moist potting mix or sand for storage and store at 34-39 °F and 80-95% relative humidity. A traditional root cellar is ideal, but garages, sheds, and other unheated structures can be equally useful in some climates.

In the spring, when the soil can be worked, replant collards in your garden, taking care to give them a lot of room to grow. Staking the plants is recommended.

After flowering in their second year, harvest collard seeds when they are very hard and pods are dry and brittle. Seeds can be gathered by cutting branches or by harvesting whole plants. Because of this species' tendency to shatter, the harvested material should be placed on drop cloths or in containers to prevent seed loss.

Thresh by rubbing the pods between one's hands or against any surface that will cause them to break open. If the pods are dry, they will release their seeds easily when threshed.



COWPEA (None in 2026)

Cowpeas are grown mostly for their edible beans, although the leaves, green seeds and pods can also be consumed. Use them in stews, soups, purees, casseroles and curries.

Varieties available: Pink-Eye Purple Hull

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served.

Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number of seeds per packet: 30

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: After frost has passed.
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Distance between Seeds: 3-4"
- Distance between Rows: 24-30"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 70-75
- Thin to 6"-8" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Allow pods to dry brown before harvesting. If frost threatens, pull entire plant, root first, and hang in cool, dry location until pods are brown.

Small amounts of pods can be opened by hand. Flail larger amounts. Remove large chaff by hand or fork. Winnow remaining particles.



CRESS (None in 2026)

A quick-growing, cool-season green that gives a peppery zing to salads. Keep trimmed and it will continue to produce.

Varieties available: Belle Island

Please note: *supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Volume of seeds per packet: ¼ teaspoon

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Either

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: As soon as soil can be worked.
- Soil Depth: 1/8"; needs some light to germinate.
- Distance between Seeds: 1/2"
- Distance between Rows: 16-18"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 40-70.
- Thin to 6" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

After cress has flowered, collect dry, brown seed heads.



CUCUMBER

Another must-have summer vegetable. Certain varieties are better for pickling.

Varieties available: Ancash Market, Dar, Diva, Green Finger, Lemon, Marketmore 76, National Pickling, Shintokiwa, Silver Slicer

Please note: *Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites*



Number of seeds per packet: 10

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Direct Sowing:

- Recommended planting date range: After frost.
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Distance between Seeds: 3"
- Distance between Rows: 4-6"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 70
- Thin to 1'
- Or grow on mounded hills 4' apart, thinning to 3 best plants per hill.

Starting Indoors, Transplanting:

- Weeks to start before transplanting: May-June
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 68-86°
- Recommended transplant date range: Transplant June-July
- Distance between transplants: 1'
- Distance between Rows: 4-6'

Seed Saving Information (Experienced)

Separate cucumber varieties by at least 1/2 mile to ensure purity. Seeds should be saved from at least 6 cucumbers on 6 different plants of the same variety.

Cucumbers raised for seed cannot be eaten. They should be left to ripen at least 5 weeks after eating stage until they have turned a golden color. First, light frost of the season will blacken vines and make cucumbers easier to find.

Slice fruit lengthwise and scrape seeds out with spoon. Allow seeds and jelly-like liquid to sit in jar at room temperature for 3 or 4 days. Fungus will start to form on top. Stir daily. Jelly will dissolve and good seeds will sink to bottom while remaining debris and immature seeds can be rinsed away. Spread seeds on a paper towel or screen until dry.

EGGPLANT

Warm season annual in the Solanaceae family. Prefers well drained soil that is high in organic matter, with a pH of 6.0-6.8. Used in Italian, French, and Asian cooking.

Varieties available: Listada di Gandia

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number of seeds per packet: 10

Linear feet needed for packet: 30'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Start Indoors, Transplanting Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: 6-8
- Soil Depth: ¼"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 70 -80 degrees
- Recommended transplant date range: After danger of frost has passed.
- Distance between transplants: 12-18'
- Distance between Rows: 4-6'

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Eggplants should be left on the plants until well past the eating stage before harvesting for seed. The eggplants will have gone past their normal, ripe color and become translucent and dry (usually a dull, unattractive whitish, yellowish, or brownish color).

Scoop the seeds from the fruit, pulp and all. Pour the seeds and pulp into a large, sloping bowl and add water. Healthy seeds will sink to the bottom of the bowl, while dead seeds and most of the pulp will float. Use your fingers to gently separate all the seeds from the pulp.



ENDIVE (None in 2026)

Endive is tender, edible, mildly bitter, blanched leaves that are delicious in salad. Endive does not like too much heat or sun, so start early and keep in partial sun, or start in July for a fall crop.



Varieties available: Pink Star

Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Volume of seeds per packet: 1/2 teaspoon

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Partial shade

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Transplanting is recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: Start indoors or in a greenhouse 6 - 8 weeks prior to your last frost
- Soil Depth: ¼"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 70°F
- Recommended transplant date range: After last frost
- Distance between transplants: 1'
- Distance between Rows: 2'

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

Biennial—must overwinter. Isolate different varieties by 1/2 mile to ensure purity and eliminate any wild chicory, which will also cross. Mulch in late-fall to insure winter survival. Thin to 18" spacing in the spring.

A few outside leaves can be harvested for eating without harming seed production. Allow plants to dry completely after most of the flowers have set pods. Pry open pods to release dry, hard seeds.

Seeds can be difficult to remove from the pods. The entire pod can be planted without removing the seeds. Crush large amounts of pods in cloth bag with wooden mallet. Screen and winnow to remove debris.

FENNEL

The leaves, stalks, bulb, and even seeds of fennel are all edible, with a licorice like flavor delicious in salads, as a side dish, or in other recipes.

Varieties available: Florence

Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Volume of seeds per packet: 10 seeds

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full sun

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Transplanting is recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: Start indoors or in a greenhouse 6 - 8 weeks prior to your last frost
- Soil Depth: ¼"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 70°F
- Recommended transplant date range: Midspring to late summer
- Distance between transplants: 6"
- Distance between Rows: 1'

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

When seed umbrels are completely dry, harvest and shake the seeds off into a bag.



GOURD (None in 2026)

A gourd is an inedible type of *Curcubita* used for decoration. To give hardshell gourds enough time to mature, they must be started indoors.

Varieties available: Ornamental Mix (small)

Please note: *supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*



Number of seeds per packet: 15

Linear feet needed for packet: 15 – 30 feet

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: Start indoors or in a greenhouse 3-4 weeks prior to your last frost
- Soil Depth: 1/2-1"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 70°F
- Recommended transplant date range: After last frost
- Distance between transplants: 24-36"
- Distance between Rows: 9-12'
- To cure, store off the ground in a well-ventilated room or unheated outbuilding. For a smooth beige surface, scrape off the outer skin after it loosens and darkens. (Freezing and thawing loosens the outer skin.)

Seed Saving Information

Do not save mixed gourd seeds for the Seed Library, because various species will crossbreed.

GROUND CHERRY (None in 2026)

A tart-sweet berry that is excellent made into pies, jams, and preserves of all kinds. Grows inside a paper-like husk.

Varieties available: Aunt Molly's

Please note: *Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Number or volume of seeds per packet: 10

Linear feet needed for packet: 30'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Start Indoors, Transplanting Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: 6-8
- Soil Depth: ¼"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 70 -80 degrees
- Recommended transplant date range: After danger of frost has passed.
- Distance between transplants: Determinate 12-18" Indeterminate 24-36"
- Distance between Rows: 4-6'
- Other: When transplanting, plant deep, above the lowest set of leaves.

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Slice open ground cherries and squeeze the gel-coated seeds into a container. Cover with water. In one to three days, a layer of mold will appear on top of the liquid. The seeds are then ready to rinse and dry on a screen.



KALE

Cool season crop in the Brassicaceae family that will survive a light frost, which will even sweeten its flavor. Prefers well drained fertile soil with a pH of 6.0-7.5. Delicious in Soup, Stew & Salads.

Varieties available: Blue Curled Scotch, Improved Dwarf Siberian

Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number or volume of seeds per packet: 1/4 t

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: As soon as soil can be worked.
- Soil Depth: 1/4"
- Distance between Seeds: 3"
- Distance between Rows: 18-30"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 55-75
- Thin to 8" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

All vegetables and varieties in the brassicus species (broccoli, brussels sprout, cauliflower, cabbage and kale) will cross with each other. Separate different varieties at least 1000 feet for satisfactory results or at least 1 mile for purity. Plant at least 6 different plants (of one variety) to protect vigor and ensure a reasonable amount of genetic diversity.

Plants to be left for seed production should be mulched in the fall or carefully dug, trimmed and stored for the winter in humid area with temperatures between 35-40° F. Flowering plants can reach 4' in height and need at least 2' spacing for good seed production.

Heads grown for seed should not be trimmed for consumption. Allow individual pods to dry to a light brown color before picking and opening by hand.

Smash unopened pods in cloth bag with mallet or by walking on them. Chaff can be winnowed.



KOHLRABI

Kohlrabi is in the Brassica family, and tastes like a firm radish. Enjoy it raw and sliced on salads or on a crudité platter. It's also very delicious fermented.

Varieties available: Early White Vienna

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served.

Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number or volume of seeds per packet: 1/4 teaspoon

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: 4 – 6 weeks before last frost
- Soil Depth: 1/4"
- Distance between Seeds: 1"
- Distance between Rows: 12"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 55-75
- Thin to 5" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

Kohlrabi are biennials and need to be overwintered. Kohlrabi are also likely or very likely to cross pollinate or outbreed and must be isolated 1/4 mile from other varieties. Recommended only for experienced seed savers.

When seedpods are brown and dry, strop seedpods from stalk and break them open to release seeds. Separate seeds from chaff with a colander or winnow.



LEEK (none in 2026)

Varieties available: Blue Solaise, Prizetaker

Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Number or volume of seeds per packet: ¼ t

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Either

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Starting indoors and transplanting is recommended.

- Start 4 – 6 weeks before and transplant as soon as soil can be worked in spring
- Soil Depth: 1/4"
- Distance between Seeds: 1"
- Distance between Rows: 12 - 24"
- Transplant 6" between plants

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

Leeks are likely or very likely to cross pollinate or outbreed and must be isolated 800 ft - 1/2 mile from other varieties. To produce seed from leeks, select as many perfect leeks as you can spare for seed production and store them through winter in a cool, dry, dark place. Replant them in early spring at the same bulb depth and spacing as when they were harvested. Watch first for flowers and then for seed heads to form during the late summer of the second season. Wait for the seed heads to dry. Most of the flowers will be dry, and the seeds will begin to fall out on their own. After the plants bloom and seed heads begin to dry, gather the heads in a paper bag. Most of the seeds will fall out on their own; shake the bag to free the remainder of the seeds. Separate the seeds from the stems and other matter that makes up the seed head. Allow the seeds to air-dry for a few days before storing the seeds in a cool, dry place.

LETTUCE

Cool season annual in the Compositae family. Lettuce prefers well drained, loose soil, pH6.2-6.8.

Varieties available: Bronze Beauty, Brown Goldring, Drunken Woman Frizzy Headed Butterhead, Green Towers Romaine, Red Salad Bowl

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served.

Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Volume of seeds per packet: 1/8 teaspoon

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Either

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: As soon as soil can be worked.
- Soil Depth:1/8"; needs some light to germinate.
- Distance between Seeds: 1/2"
- Distance between Rows:16-18"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 40-70.
- Thin to 6" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Separate varieties flowering at the same time by at least 20 feet to ensure purity.

Some outside leaves can be harvested for eating without harming seed production. Allow seed heads to dry 2-3 weeks after flowering. Individual heads will ripen at different times making the harvest of large amounts of seed at one time nearly impossible. Wait until half the flowers on each plant has gone to seed. Cut entire top of plant and allow to dry upside down in an open paper bag.

Small amounts of seed can be shaken daily from individual flowering heads. Rub with hands to remove remaining seeds. If necessary, separate seeds from chaff with screens.



MELON

A melon is any of various plants of the family Cucurbitaceae with edible, fleshy fruit. Delicious and juicy melons are the great source of much-needed water and electrolytes.

Varieties available: Honey Rock Cantaloupe, Metki Dar Green Serpent

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number or volume of seeds per packet: 10

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: Start indoors three weeks prior to the last frost.
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 60 °
- Recommended transplant date range: Transplant once all risk of frost has passed.
- Distance between transplants: 3-4 feet apart
- Distance between Rows: 6 feet
- Other (eg hill or mound, requires staking or trellising, etc.): Add fertilizer around each plant. Powdery mildew and bacterial wilts are common problems. Planting in raised beds covered with green, silver or black plastic mulch is recommended to get better yields.

Seed Saving Information (Basic, if growing only one variety; otherwise, Experienced)

Separate different melon varieties by at least 1/2 mile to ensure purity.

Muskmelon seed is mature and can be harvested from ripe and ready to eat muskmelons.

Simply rinse seeds clean, dry with towel and spread on board or cookie sheet to complete drying.



MUSTARD

Cool season crop in the brassicaceae family. Prefers fertile well drained soil with a pH of 5.5-8.3. Delicious in Salad, Stew and Stir-fry.

Varieties available: Feaster Family Heirloom

Please note: *supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*



Number or volume of seeds per packet: 1/4 teaspoon

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or partial sun? Either

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: As soon as soil can be worked.
- Soil Depth: ¼"
- Distance between Seeds: 1"
- Distance between Rows: 12-24"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 40-70
- Thin to 1" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

Mustard is a biennial, so must be overwintered and seeds collected the 2nd year. They are also likely to cross pollinate or outbreed and must be isolated 1/4 mile from other varieties.

When seedpods are brown and dry, strop seedpods from stalk and break them open to release seeds. Separate seeds from chaff with a colander or winnow.

OKRA

Okra is traditionally a southern U.S. plant that thrives in warm weather. It is easy to grow and use and looks great throughout the growing season due to its beautiful flowers. Okra is also rich in vitamin A and low in calories.

Varieties available: Clemson Spineless



Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number or volume of seeds per packet: 10 seeds

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or partial sun? Either

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: Start transplants 3-4 weeks before planting date
- Soil Depth: ½" – 1"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 65-70 °F
- Recommended transplant date range: Transplant after danger of frost has passed.
- Distance between transplants: 10-18"
- Distance between Rows: double or triple rows 18-24" apart
- Eliminate weeds when the plants are young, then mulch heavily to prevent more weeds from growing. Apply a layer of mulch 4 to 8 inches high. You should also side-dress the plants with 10-10-10, aged manure, or rich compost (½ pound per 25 feet of row). You could also apply a balanced liquid fertilizer monthly.

Seed Saving Information (Experienced)

Okra is likely to cross pollinate or outbreed and must be isolated at least 800' from other varieties.

When seedpods are brown and dry, strop seedpods from stalk and break them open to release seeds.

ONION

Varieties available: Aisla Craig, Flat of Italy, Parade Bunching, Red Geneva Cipollini, Wethersfield Red

Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Number or volume of seeds per packet: ¼ t

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Either

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Starting indoors and transplanting is recommended.

- Start 4 – 6 weeks before and transplant as soon as soil can be worked in spring
- Soil Depth: 1/4"
- Distance between Seeds: 1"
- Distance between Rows: 6"
- Transplant 6" between plants

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

Onions are likely or very likely to cross pollinate or outbreed and must be isolated 800 ft - 1/2 mile from other varieties. To produce seed from onion, select as many perfect onions as you can spare for seed production and store them through winter in a cool, dry, dark place. Replant them in early spring at the same bulb depth and spacing as when they were harvested. Watch first for flowers and then for seed heads to form during the late summer of the second season. Wait for the seed heads to dry. Most of the flowers will be dry, and the seeds will begin to fall out on their own. After the plants bloom and seed heads begin to dry, gather the heads in a paper bag. Most of the seeds will fall out on their own; shake the bag to free the remainder of the seeds. Separate the seeds from the stems and other matter that makes up the seed head. Allow the seeds to air-dry for a few days before storing the seeds in a cool, dry place.

ONION, BUNCHING (in Onion Drawer)

Varieties available: Parade

Please note: *Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*



Number or volume of seeds per packet: ¼ t

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Either

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct seeding is recommended.

- Soil Depth: 1/4"
- Distance between Seeds: 1"
- Distance between Rows: 2-3"

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

Onions are likely or very likely to cross pollinate or outbreed and must be isolated 800 ft - 1/2 mile from other varieties. To produce seed from bunching onions, mulch so they can overwinter. In spring, watch first for flowers and then for seed heads to form during the late summer of the second season. Wait for the seed heads to dry. Most of the flowers will be dry, and the seeds will begin to fall out on their own. After the plants bloom and seed heads begin to dry, gather the heads in a paper bag. Most of the seeds will fall out on their own; shake the bag to free the remainder of the seeds. Separate the seeds from the stems and other matter that makes up the seed head. Allow the seeds to air-dry for a few days before storing the seeds in a cool, dry place.

PAC CHOY (None in 2026)

Pac choy's mild flavor is a must for stir fries. It's not as finicky about heat and cold as Chinese cabbage, and the striking white petioles and green leaves make it a must for edible landscaping.

Varieties available: White Stemmed

Please note: *Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Volume of seeds per packet: 20 seeds

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full or partial sun

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: 4 - 6 weeks
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 68-86°
- Recommended transplant date range: Transplant late May, early June
- Distance between transplants: 6 – 12" feet apart
- Distance between Rows: 18 – 30"

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Pak Choy will bolt when temperatures get hot, and will form flowers and seed. Seed is housed in pods. Allow individual pods to dry to a light brown color before picking and opening by hand. Lower pods dry first followed by those progressively higher on the plant. When the plants are completely dry, any seeds that haven't naturally fallen out of their seed pods are easily removed by crumbling the pods.



PARSNIP (None in 2026)

A root with a sweet, nutty flavor.

Varieties available: Halblange, Student

Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Number or volume of seeds per packet: ¼ t

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: Spring
- Soil Depth: 1/2"
- Distance between Seeds: 1"
- Distance between Rows: 18 - 24"
- Takes 21 days to germinate; keep moist
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 55-75
- Thin to 2-3" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

Separate varieties at least 1000 feet for satisfactory results or at least 1/2 mile for purity. Plant at least 6 different plants of the same variety to ensure a reasonable amount of genetic diversity.

Seed to seed: Plants left for seed production should be mulched in the fall. Flowering plants can grow 3' tall and need at least 2' spacing for good seed production. Root to seed: Carefully dig roots in the fall, trim tops to 2" and store for the winter in humid location (layered in sand or sawdust) with temperatures 35-40° F. Replant best roots in early spring with 2' spacing.

Smash unopened pods in a cloth bag with mallet or by walking on them. Chaff can be winnowed.

PEA: SHELL, SNAP, AND SNOW

Garden or shell peas have an inedible pod, but produce delicious, tender peas. The pods of snap and snow peas are edible.

Varieties available:

Shell: Alaska Early, Bolero, Frosty, Green Arrow, Maestro

Snap: Super Sugar, Sweet Gem

Snow: Blizzard

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number of seeds per packet: 30

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Direct Sowing is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: 4-6 weeks before last frost.
- Soil Depth:1"
- Distance between Seeds: 3-4"
- Distance between Rows: 24-30"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 45
- May need to be trellised

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Allow pods to dry brown before harvesting, about four weeks after eating stage. If frost threatens, pull entire plant, root first, and hang in cool, dry location until pods are brown.

Small amounts of pods can be opened by hand. Flail larger amounts. Remove large chaff by hand or fork. Winnow remaining particles.



PEPPER, HOT

Peppers were grown extensively in Central and South America, Mexico, and the West Indies. Peppers are great raw and in cooked dishes.

Varieties available: Aji Chombo, Aji Fantasy, Big Jim, Biquinho, Brown Jalapeno, Carolina Reaper, Chinese Five Color, Goronong, Habanda, Lemon Drop, Lemon Slice Jalapeno, Shishito, Tobago Seasoning, Txorixero, Tunisian Baklouti



Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number or volume of seeds per packet: 10

Linear feet needed for packet: About 20'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: 8-10 weeks before your last frost
- Soil Depth: 1/4"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 65 °
- Recommended transplant date range: After risk of frost has passed
- Distance between transplants: 12-18" apart
- Distance between Rows: 24-30 inches apart

Seed Saving Information (Basic if growing only one variety; otherwise, Experienced)

Peppers are likely or very likely to cross pollinate or outbreed and must be isolated 400 feet from other varieties.

Harvest mature, fully-ripe peppers for seed. (Most bell peppers turn red when fully mature.) If frost threatens before peppers mature, pull entire plant and hang in cool, dry location until peppers mature.

Cut the bottom off the fruit and carefully reach in to strip the seeds surrounding central cone. In many cases, seeds need no further cleaning. Spread clean seeds on paper towel and dry in cool location until seed is dry enough to break when folded.

PEPPER, SWEET

Peppers were grown extensively in Central and South America, Mexico, and the West Indies. Peppers are great raw and in cooked dishes.

Varieties available: Albino Bullnose, California Wonder, Etiuda, King of the North, Pippin's Golden Honey

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number or volume of seeds per packet: 10

Linear feet needed for packet: About 20'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: 8-10 weeks before your last frost
- Soil Depth: 1/4"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 65 °
- Recommended transplant date range: After risk of frost has passed
- Distance between transplants: 12-18" apart
- Distance between Rows: 24-30 inches apart

Seed Saving Information (Basic if growing only one variety; otherwise, Experienced)

Peppers are likely or very likely to cross pollinate or outbreed and must be isolated 400 feet from other varieties.

Harvest mature, fully-ripe peppers for seed. (Most bell peppers turn red when fully mature.) If frost threatens before peppers mature, pull entire plant and hang in cool, dry location until peppers mature.

Cut the bottom off the fruit and carefully reach in to strip the seeds surrounding central cone. In many cases, seeds need no further cleaning. Spread clean seeds on paper towel and dry in cool location until seed is dry enough to break when folded.



PUMPKIN

A pumpkin is a cultivar of a squash plant, most commonly of *Cucurbita pepo* that is round, with smooth, slightly ribbed skin, and deep yellow to orange coloration. They can be prepared in pies, used for decorating, and the seeds can be roasted and eaten.

Varieties available: Howden, New England Pie, New England Sugar Pie, Rouge Vif D'Etampes



Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number or volume of seeds per packet: 10

Linear feet needed for packet: 15 – 30 feet

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended?

- Weeks to start before transplanting: Start indoors or in a greenhouse 3-4 weeks prior to your last frost
- Soil Depth: 1/2-1"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 70°F
- Recommended transplant date range: After last frost
- Distance between transplants: For bush varieties 18", for vining 24-36"
- Distance between Rows: Row spacing: for bush/semi-bush and short vine types 6', for vigorous vining types use 9-12'
- Other (eg hill or mound, requires staking or trellising, etc.): Pumpkins have the same cultural needs as other members at the squash family. Squash and pumpkins prefer good fertile soil and plenty of sunshine. The major insect pests are the spotted and striped camber beetles, vine borers, and squash bugs. Use row covers or apply pyrethrin to reduce and control damage.

Seed Saving Information (Experienced)

Squashes or pumpkins in the *Cucurbita pepo* species (acorn squashes, pumpkins, crooknecks, scallops, spaghetti squashes, and zucchini) will cross with each other and must be grown at least ½ mile apart. Experienced home seed savers may grow more than one variety in a single garden by using hand pollinating techniques. Squash flowers are large and relatively easy to hand pollinate.

Squash must be fully mature before harvested for seed production. Allow to cure 3-4 additional weeks after harvest to encourage further seed ripening.

Chop open hard-shelled fruits and scoop out seeds. Rinse clean in wire strainer with warm, running water. Dry with towel and spread on board or cookie sheet to complete drying.

RADISH

Radish, that common and beloved part of your salad, is a root crop, and it is pungent or sweet in taste with a lot of juice. Radishes can be white, red, purple or black, and in terms of shape, it can be long and cylindrical or round. They are eaten raw, cooked or pickled.

Varieties available: Japanese Minowase Daikon, Jutrzenka, Malaga, Raxe, Sera, White Icicle



Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number or volume of seeds per packet: 1/4 t

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Either

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended.

- Recommended planting date range: Direct seed in the garden March through August
- Soil Depth: 1/4-1/2"
- Distance between Seeds: 1"
- Distance between Rows: 8-12"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: Can be sowed as soon as the soil is warm enough to be worked. Optimal soil temperature for germination is 65-85°F
- Thin to 2" between plants
- Other: It is essential to thin promptly. Radishes have shallow root systems and require abundant water. Dry or crowded conditions will slow growth and make the roots hot or pithy. Flea beetle damage (or pinholes in leaves) can reduce the growth rate and quality of radishes. Control infestations with floating row covers or pyrethrin. Root maggot populations can also be reduced by using a row cover.

Seed Saving Information (Basic if growing one variety; otherwise Experienced)

Radishes are likely or very likely to cross pollinate or outbreed and must be isolated 1/2 mile from other varieties. Seed to seed: Mulch in the fall to insure winter survival. The following spring, thin to 9" spacing, leaving those roots that showed no sign of bolting. Root to seed: Harvest roots in fall. Select desirable roots and trim tops to within an inch of the roots leaving small, new leaves. Store at 40° F. in humid location. Replant in early spring at 9" intervals and cover with 1" of soil.

Harvest 3' tall stalks containing seeds pods when pods have dried brown. Pull entire plant and hang in cool, dry place if all pods are not dried at the end of the growing season.

Open pods by hand for small amounts of seed. Pods that do not open when rubbed between hands can be pounded with hammer or mallet. Winnow to remove remaining chaff.

RUTABAGA (None in 2026)

Rutabagas prefer a long, cool growing season. Plant in full sun in cool climates or partial shade in hot summer climates. Rutabagas are most delicious after a frost or two. Flesh is dense and crunchy with a delicate sweet flavor. Delicious roasted, mashed, and as a base for winter soups.

Varieties available: Joan, Macomber



Please note: *Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Number or volume of seeds per packet: 1/4 teaspoon

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Partial

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: As soon as soil can be worked.
- Soil Depth: 1/2"
- Distance between Seeds: 2"
- Distance between Rows: 12 - 18"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 55-75
- Thin to 5 - 6" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Experienced)

Grow seed for only one variety of rutabaga at any one time. Rutabaga must be overwintered to produce seed. Mulch first year crop in the fall to ensure winter survival. The following spring, thin to 18" spacing.

After flowering, cut 4' tall tops just above the root when majority flowering clusters have turned brown. Tops can be stored in cool, dry locations for 2-3 weeks to encourage further seed ripening.

Small quantities of seed can be stripped by hand as seed matures. Large numbers of tops can be put into a cloth bag and stomped or pounded. Chaff can be winnowed.

SALSIFY (None in 2026)

The salsify plant (*Tragopogon porrifolius*) is an old-fashioned vegetable that is very hard to find in the grocery store, which means that salsify as a garden plant is fun and unusual. Common names for this vegetable include oyster plant and vegetable oyster, due to its distinct oyster flavor

Varieties available: Mammoth Sandwich Island

Please note: *supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Volume of seeds per packet: 15 seeds

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Direct Sowing is Recommended

Plant salsify seeds about 1 – 2 inches apart and ½ inch deep

Read more at Gardening Know How: Salsify Care – How To Grow Salsify

Plant <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/vegetables/salsify/grow-salsify.htm>

- Recommended planting date range: Starting late April
- Soil Depth: 1/2"
- Distance between Seeds: 1"-2"
- Distance between Rows: 18-24"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 40
- Thin to 4" inches between plants
- Can take up to 3 weeks to sprout; keep rows from drying out for faster emergence and keep moist during growing season.

Seed Saving Information (Experienced)

Salsify must overwinter before producing seed. In warmer climates, a layer of mulch will be sufficient for protection. In colder climates, dig up the roots; cut the tops to 2" and store them in damp sand at 33-40 degrees F until replanting in spring. The roots will send up flowering stalks with seed heads that resemble those of a dandelion. Since they fly away very easily in the wind, gather them as soon as they mature. Remove the fluff and spread the seed to dry for several weeks out of the sunlight. When the seeds have dried completely, they will break easily in half. Store the seeds in a cool, dry place.



SOYBEAN (EDAMAME) (None in 2026)

Edamame varieties are harvested while they are still green, before the pods dry, much like shelling peas. They are a popular Japanese appetizer—steam the pods, sprinkle them with salt, and enjoy popping them into your mouth.

Varieties available: Midori Giant



Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number of seeds per packet: 30

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: After frost has passed.
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Distance between Seeds: 3-4"
- Distance between Rows: 24-30"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 70-75
- Thin to 6"-8" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Although, ideally, different varieties should be separated by 150 feet or another crop flowering at the same time, we rarely observe cross-pollination even when two varieties of beans are grown next to each other.

Allow pods to dry brown before harvesting, about six weeks after eating stage. If frost threatens, pull entire plant, root first, and hang in cool, dry location until pods are brown.

Small amounts of pods can be opened by hand. Flail larger amounts. Remove large chaff by hand or fork. Winnow remaining particles.

SPINACH

Cool season annual in the Chenopodiaceae family. Prefers fertile moist soil with a pH of 6.5-7. Delicious in Soup, Stew, Salad & Pesto

Varieties available: Jiomaru, New Zealand

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Number or volume of seeds per packet: 1/4 t

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: As soon as soil can be worked.
- Soil Depth: 1/8"-1/4"
- Distance between Seeds: 2"
- Distance between Rows: 12-18"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 32-60
- Thin to 2" inches between plants
- Other (eg hill or mound, requires staking or trellising, etc.):

Seed Saving Information (Experienced)

It is best to grow seeds for only one variety of spinach at a time. Commercial seed crops are separated 5 miles or more. Plant early in the spring to allow enough time for seed production which can take 4-6 weeks more than the time required to reach eating stage. Remove plants which bolt first, and thin remaining plants to 8" for seed production. Leave one male plant for each two females to ensure pollination.

Some outside leaves can be harvested for eating without harming seed production. If possible, wait until all plants have dried brown. Pull entire plant and hang in cool, dry place if necessary at the end of the growing season.

Strip seeds in upward motion and let them fall into container. Chaff can be winnowed. Use gloves for prickly-seeded types.

SQUASH, SUMMER

Warm season annual in the Cucurbita family. Prefers Loose fertile well drained soil with a pH of 5.8-6.8. Can be eaten raw or cooked in a wide variety of ways.

Varieties available: Burgess Buttercup, Gerber Englischer Custard, Lemon, Patisson Golden Marbre Scallop, Rugos Friulana, Yellow Crookneck, Zucchini Odessa, Zucchini Ronde de Nice



Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites

Brief Description, best uses:

Number of seeds per packet: 10

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended.

- Recommended planting date range: After frost.
- Soil Depth: ½"-1"
- Distance between Seeds: Plant 5 seeds in a 4" high, flat topped hill about 3' in diameter
- Distance between Hills: 3'
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 70
- Thin to 3 plants per hill

Seed Saving Information (Experienced)

Squashes or pumpkins in the Cucurbita pepo species (acorn squashes, pumpkins, crooknecks, scallops, spaghetti squashes, and zucchinis) will cross with each other and must be grown at least ½ mile apart. Experienced home seed savers may grow more than one variety in a single garden by using hand pollinating techniques. Squash flowers are large and relatively easy to hand pollinate.

Squash must be fully mature before harvested for seed production. This means that summer squashes must be left on the vine until outer shell hardens. Allow to cure 3-4 additional weeks after harvest to encourage further seed ripening.

Chop open hard-shelled fruits and scoop out seeds. Rinse clean in wire strainer with warm, running water. Dry with towel and spread on board or cookie sheet to complete drying.

SQUASH, WINTER

Warm season annual in the Cucurbita family. Prefers Loose fertile well drained soil with a pH of 5.8-6.8. Can be cooked in a wide variety of ways.

Varieties available: Indomatrone, Red Kuri Hokkaido, Thelma Sanders; Sweet Potato Acorn, Warsaw Pasta



Please note: *Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites*

Number of seeds per packet: 10

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended.

- Recommended planting date range: After frost.
- Soil Depth: ½"-1"
- Distance between Seeds: Plant 5 seeds in a 4" high, flat topped hill about 3' in diameter
- Distance between Hills: 3'
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 70
- Thin to 3 plants per hill

Seed Saving Information

Squashes or pumpkins within the same species will cross with each other and must be grown at least ½ mile apart. Experienced home seed savers may grow more than one variety within a species in a single garden by using hand pollinating techniques. Squash flowers are large and relatively easy to hand pollinate.

Squash must be fully mature before harvested for seed production. This means that summer squashes must be left on the vine until outer shell hardens. Allow to cure 3-4 additional weeks after harvest to encourage further seed ripening.

Chop open hard-shelled fruits and scoop out seeds. Rinse clean in wire strainer with warm, running water. Dry with towel and spread on board or cookie sheet to complete drying.

TOMATILLO

Essential ingredient in salsa verde!

Varieties available: Toma Verde

Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Number or volume of seeds per packet: 10

Linear feet needed for packet: 30'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Start Indoors, Transplanting Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: 6-8
- Soil Depth: ¼"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 70 -80 degrees
- Recommended transplant date range: After danger of frost has passed.
- Distance between transplants: Determinate 12-18" Indeterminate 24-36"
- Distance between Rows: 4-6'
- Other: When transplanting, plant deep, above the lowest set of leaves.

Seed Saving Information (Basics)

When saving seeds from tomatillo, separate varieties by 800-1,600 feet. Plant at least 5 tomatillos of the same variety to ensure viable seed.

Tomatillo seeds are ripe when the fruit is ready to eat. Squeeze out the pulp and seeds from the inside of the fruit. To separate the seeds from the surrounding pulp, seeds and pulp should be fermented. Put the pulp and seeds and a little bit of water in a small container. Leave this container to sit for at least one day. A cap of mold will form on the mixture and good seeds will sink to the bottom. After a few days, skim off the mold and any floating seeds and then add clean water to the mixture. Decant the liquid from the sunken, viable seeds. Repeat this process until most of the pulp is washed away. Pour the seeds into a mesh strainer and give the seeds a final rinse under running water.

Lay the tomatillo seeds out on a screen or coffee filter to dry. Seeds are dry enough for storage when they can be cracked cleanly in half.

TOMATO

What would summer be without homegrown tomatoes?

Varieties available:

- Amish Paste
- Brandywine
- Mountain Princess
- Murawski Roma
- San Marzano Paste
- Siletz
- Umpqua Beauty
- Unknown Large Yellow
-

Cherry Tomatoes:

- Peacevine



Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number or volume of seeds per packet: 10

Linear feet needed for packet: 30'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Start Indoors, Transplanting Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: 6-8
- Soil Depth: ¼"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 70 -80 degrees
- Recommended transplant date range: After danger of frost has passed.
- Distance between transplants: Determinate 12-18" Indeterminate 24-36"
- Distance between Rows: 4-6'
- Other: When transplanting, plant deep, above the lowest set of leaves.

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Separate varieties with short styles (most modern varieties) by at least 10 feet. Varieties with long styles (heirlooms and older varieties) need at least 100 feet to ensure purity. Allow tomatoes to completely ripen before harvesting for seed production.

Cut the tomato into halves at its equator, opening the vertical cavities that contain the seeds. Gently squeeze out from the cavities the jelly-like substance that contains the seeds. If done carefully, the tomato itself can still be eaten or saved for canning, sun-drying or dehydrating.

Place the jelly and seeds into a small jar or glass. (Add a little water if you are processing only one or two small tomatoes.) Loosely cover the container and place in a warm location, 60-75° F. for about three days. Stir once a day.

A layer of fungus will begin to appear on the top of the mixture after a couple of days. This fungus not only eats the gelatinous coat that surrounds each seed and prevents germination, it also produces antibiotics that help to control seed-borne diseases like bacterial spot, canker and speck.

After three days fill the seed container with warm water. Let the contents settle and begin pouring out the water along with pieces of tomato pulp and immature seeds floating on top. Note: Viable seeds are heavier and settle to the bottom of the jar. Repeat this process until water being poured out is almost clear and clean seeds line the bottom of the container. Pour these clean seeds into a strainer that has holes smaller than the seeds. Let the excess water drip out and invert the strainer onto paper towel or piece of newspaper. Allow the seeds to dry completely (usually a day or two). Break up the clumps into individual seeds, label and store in a packet or plastic bag.

TURNIP (None in 2026)

Turnip aren't too fussy about soil, growing well in a [soil pH](#) of 5.5 to 6.8, and doing okay even in poor soil. Plant further apart and go sparingly on harvesting greens to allow plants to form roots.

Varieties available: Purple Top White Globe

Please note: *Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Number or volume of seeds per packet: ¼ t

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: As soon as soil can be worked.
- Soil Depth: 1/4"
- Distance between Seeds: 2"
- Distance between Rows: 12 - 18"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 55-75
- Thin to 5 - 6" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Expert)

Separate varieties at least 1000 feet for satisfactory results or at least 1/2 mile for purity. Plant at least 6 different plants of the same variety to ensure a reasonable amount of genetic diversity.

Seed to seed: Plants left for seed production should be mulched in the fall. Flowering plants can grow 3' tall and need at least 2' spacing for good seed production. Root to seed: Carefully dig roots in the fall, trim tops to 2" and store for the winter in humid location (layered in sand or sawdust) with temperatures 35-40° F. Replant best roots in early spring with 2' spacing.

Turnips grown for seed should not be trimmed for eating. Allow individual pods to dry to a light brown color before picking and opening by hand. Lower pods dry first followed by those progressively higher on the plant.

Smash unopened pods in a cloth bag with mallet or by walking on them. Chaff can be winnowed.



WATERMELON

Watermelons are in the Cucurbitaceae family and have edible, fleshy fruit. Delicious and juicy melons are the great source of much-needed water and electrolytes. This far north, gardeners have the best luck with smaller melons.

Varieties available: Baby Doll, Blacktail Mountain, Cal Sweet Bush, Moon & Stars, Sugar Baby



Please note: *supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Number or volume of seeds per packet: 10

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: Start indoors three weeks prior to the last frost.
- Soil Depth: ½"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 60 °
- Recommended transplant date range: Transplant once all risk of frost has passed.
- Distance between transplants: 3-4 feet apart
- Distance between Rows: 6 feet
- Other (eg hill or mound, requires staking or trellising, etc.): Add fertilizer around each plant. Powdery mildew and bacterial wilts are common problems. Planting in raised beds covered with green, silver or black plastic mulch is recommended to get better yields.

Seed Saving Information (Experienced)

Separate varieties by at least 800 feet.

Harvest fruits as you would for eating and simply reserve some of the seeds or leave the fruits on the vine until they soften slightly. (This may improve seed quality, but you won't want to eat the melons at this point.) Seeds inside should be plump and firm. Rinse seeds well in a strainer or colander and then spread in a thin layer to dry.

Store watermelon seeds in a cool, dark, and dry place and always put seeds in an airtight container to keep out moisture and humidity. When stored under these conditions, watermelon seeds can remain viable for 5 years.

BASIL (In Herb Drawer)

Delicious culinary herb in the Lamiaceae family used in tomato sauces and pesto. Prefers well drained, rich soil with a pH of 5.5-6.5.

Varieties available: Large Leaf Italian, Lemon

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Number of seeds per packet: 10

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: 6 – 8 weeks
- Soil Depth: ¼"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 70 degrees
- Recommended transplant date range: After frost
- Distance between transplants: 2'
- Distance between Rows: 2'

Seed Saving Information (Basic if growing only one variety; otherwise Experienced)

Basil is likely or very likely to cross pollinate or outbreed and must be isolated at least 1600 ft. from other varieties of basil.

Harvest seed heads as they dry and allow to finish drying in a warm, dry spot. Seeds are easily removed by crumbling the dried flower heads and then blowing away the chaff.

CATNIP (None in 2026)

Varieties available: Common

Please note: Supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Number or volume of seeds per packet: About 20 seeds

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or partial sun? Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sow or start indoors 8 – 10 weeks before last frost

- Recommended planting date range: As soon as soil can be worked.
- Soil Depth: 1/8 - 1/4"
- Distance between Seeds: 1"
- Distance between Rows: 12"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 55-75
- Thin to 12" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Once seedheads are dried, shake to free seeds.

CILANTRO (None in 2026)

Delicious culinary herb used in Mexican, Indian, and Asian Cooking. Prefers well drained, fertile soil with a pH of 6.5-7.5. Great for Soup, Salsas & bean dishes.

Varieties available: Santo, Unknown

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Number of seeds per packet: ½ t

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: After frost.
- Soil Depth: ¼"
- Distance between Seeds: 3"
- Distance between Rows: 18"
- Minimum Soil Temperature:
- Thin to 6" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Basic if growing only one variety; otherwise Experienced)

Cilantro is likely or very likely to cross pollinate or outbreed and must be isolated 1600 ft. from other varieties.

Harvest seed heads as they dry and allow to finish drying in a warm, dry spot.

Dill (in Herb Drawer)

Delicious fresh or dried. Use fresh leaves for cooking and salads and seed heads for pickling.

Varieties available: Greensleeves, Hera

Please note: *supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.*

Number of seeds per packet: ¼ t

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Direct Sowing Is Recommended

- Recommended planting date range: As soon as soil is warm.
- Soil Depth: ¼"
- Distance between Seeds: 4"
- Distance between Rows: 12 - 36"
- Minimum Soil Temperature: 55 - 75
- Thin to 4" inches between plants

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Harvest seed heads as they dry and allow to finish drying in a warm, dry spot.



PARSLEY (in Herb Drawer)

Parsley is a species of *Petroselinum* in the family Apiaceae, native to the central Mediterranean region, naturalized elsewhere in Europe, and widely cultivated as a herb, a spice, and a vegetable.

Varieties available: Italian Flat

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Number or volume of seeds per packet: 1/8 teaspoon

Linear feet needed for packet: About 10 feet

Full or Partial Sun? Either

OK for Container gardening? Yes

Planting Information

Starting Indoors, Transplanting is Recommended

- Weeks to start before transplanting: Start transplants 6-8 weeks before planting date
- Soil Depth: ¼"
- Ideal Soil Temperature: 65 °F
- Recommended transplant date range: Transplant after danger of frost has passed.
- Distance between transplants: 12-18"
- Distance between Rows: double or triple rows 18-24" apart
- Other (eg hill or mound, requires staking or trellising, etc.): Parsley likes rich soil with lots of nitrogen. If the parsley bed was manured in the previous fall, no additional fertilizer will be needed.

Seed Saving Information (Experienced)

Parsley is a biennial, so must be overwintered and seeds collected the 2nd year. They are also likely to cross pollinate or outbreed and must be isolated 1 mile other varieties. Recommended only for experienced seed savers.

Flower heads are collected when completely dry and brown.

Flowers

Enjoy a season of bouquets!



Varieties available:

Alyssum, Royal Carpet

Calendula, Resina

Daisy, Unknown

Marigold

- Crackerjack
- Dwarf Bolero
- Linneaus Burning Embers
- Key Lime
- Orange French Dwarf
- Unknown Orange and Red

Mullein, Antique Rose

Nasturtium

- Jewel Mix
- Tip Top Rose Blush

Nicotiana, Crimson Bedder

Poppy

- Black Beauty
- Planete Rouge du Jura

Premium Sun Coral, Candy

Salpiglossis, Black Trumpet

Scabiosa, Fama White

Shasta Daisy, Silver Princess

Viola

- Miniola Heart Aqua
- Tiger Laeta

Zinnia, Yellow

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number of seeds per packet: About 20

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? Some are

Planting Information

See the information on the reference packets in each drawer or check online or in library books for planting instructions for each variety.

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Hang seedheads upside down in a bag for seeds to fall into as they dry.

Sunflowers

The sunniest part of any garden!

Varieties available:

Goldy Double, Hella Sonnenblume, Mammoth, Medium Red, Teddy Bear, Velvet Queen



Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.

Number of seeds per packet: About 20

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening?

Planting Information

See the information on the reference packets in each drawer or check online or in library books for planting instructions for each variety.

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Hang seedheads upside down in a bag for seeds to fall into as they dry.

Wildflowers (Coming in September)

Bring some native plants to your yard.

Varieties available:

Please note: supplies of seeds are limited and first come-first served. Not all varieties may be available throughout the planting season. For specific information about a particular variety or a photo, refer to library books, seed catalogs, or seed company websites.



Number of seeds per packet: 10 - 20

Linear feet needed for packet: 10'

Full or Partial Sun: Full

OK for Container gardening? No

Planting Information

Very basic instructions are on each seed packet, but for best results, do some research and be sure you are looking for guidelines for Ohio. Check online or in library books for planting instructions for each variety. Some seeds are best planted in fall or require a process called stratification.

Stratification is the process that seed goes through to break down the seed coat and allow moisture to enter the seed to begin the germination process. In nature, this occurs over time and the seed germinates when its stratification requirements have been met. Stratification times can vary in nature due to varying seasonal and weather patterns.

If a plant drops seed in the spring, the seed goes through summer, fall and winter and wakes up the next spring when it's time to make a new plant. This particular seed follows a natural stratification pattern of warm and dry (summer), followed by cool and moist (fall and winter). Due to varying weather patterns, stratification in nature can vary radically from year to year and increase variability with these processes.

The amount of time needed for artificial stratification varies for different seeds.

If you are planting your native seed directly into the earth, it is not as critical to stratify the seed.

Seed Saving Information (Basic)

Hang seedheads upside down in a bag for seeds to fall into as they dry.