

A Passion for Seeds



There's an old saying about farmers that they put their faith in the ground. Gardeners do this too and it's that glorious time again when we gardeners can scroll through the vast selection of seeds available around the world. Thanks to the Internet we can get seeds from Tasmania as well as seeds from Russia. Seeds are the international language of green hope and curiosity! If you

have a gardener in the family and are looking for a present, how about seeds from somewhere interesting? Likely the seeds will not arrive until after xmas but you can include the printed material in a basket with the compulsory gift card for excellent coffee/tea and pastry!

So let's look at some of the wide world of seeds.

We will start with local seeds. This is a personal bias but I think you get the best seeds at a garden centre. Big box stores certainly carry seeds but they are not always suitable for this climate and often are not the highest quality. High quality means the seeds are fresh and many will sprout. I find the hardware and big box stores carry cheaper seed. That's fine if you have a small budget and lower expectations. Speaking of expectations. If you order seed from a good seed company and they do not germinate or they are the wrong seeds, they often will send you replacements. This year I ordered cherry tomato seeds from a good supplier and what grew were eggplants. Well, I was going to contact them but like many businesses during the pandemic I gave them a pass for being able to send ANYTHING!

Now if you are a beginner gardener I would suggest you buy seeds from Westcoast Seeds. They are widely available and they have a great information catalogue that is free. If you want to join legions of sadly addicted gardeners send away for some **SEED CATALOGUES**. This is a powerful garden drug and must be taken sparingly. I once received 3 garden seed catalogues in a week and was sofa ridden for a very very long time. Experienced gardeners should broaden their horizons by going online and browsing some of these lovely catalogues. Here's a sample sent to me by garden expert Elaine. **delphinium.co.nz** Gob smackingly gorgeous flowers! I will be ordering these seeds soon!

Here is a collection of seed companies that many of us use. There are TONS more. Of the Canadian seed companies, I really like T & T Seeds out of Manitoba and William Dam seeds from Ontario. Order seeds! Dream of the spring!

Canadian Seeds		Location	Specialty
1	Westcoast Seeds	Langley	Our climate
2	Saltspring Seeds	Saltspring Island	Heritage and heirloom organic
3	Brother Nature Seeds		Heirloom
4	Veseys Seeds	P.E.I.	Large selection
5	T & T Seeds	Manitoba	Vegetable seeds and starts
6	William Dam Seeds	Ontario	Great quality nice people
7	Stokes Seeds	Ontario and USA	Used to be very popular
8	MacKenzie Seeds	Alberta	Often in hardware stores
American Seeds		Location	Specialty
1	Burpee Seeds	Pennsylvania	Non gmo high germination
2	Johnny's Seeds	Windslow Maine	Organic wide variety
3	Swallowtail Seeds	California	Good seed quality
4	Territorial Seeds	Oregon	Locally trialed
World Seeds		Location	Specialty
1	Plant World Seeds	Devon England	Super wide selection
2	Jelitto Seeds	Germany	Wide selection
3	Barnhaven Seeds	France	Primula and Polyanthus seeds
4	New Zealand Delphiniums		New Zealand Delphiniums

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