



# LOCAL SEED LIBRARY

A Community Seed Saving Collaborative



## The Local Exchange & Library Partnership

The Local Exchange, Hamlin-Lincoln County Public Library, and Milton Public Library have teamed up to launch an exciting new project, the **Local Seed Library**: a program that will create a space for gardeners to take seeds and for seed savers to donate locally-adapted varieties. This initiative is designed to promote seed sharing, encourage biodiversity, and foster a stronger sense of community around seed saving, gardening, and food sovereignty. While the seed library program is in its early stages, there are already seeds donated by local businesses available for gardeners to access at both Hamlin and Milton library locations. The Local Exchange, Hamlin Library, and Milton Library are encouraging community members to contribute their own saved seeds to help grow the collection and ensure that local, regionally-adapted varieties are available for everyone to use. This project is an exciting step towards building a sustainable and resilient grower community in our area.



## Why is local, regionally-adapted seed important?

Regionally-adapted local seeds are crucial because they are naturally suited to the specific climate, soil, and environmental conditions of a given area. This adaptation enhances their resilience to local pests, diseases, and extreme weather events, resulting in healthier crops with higher yields. Local seeds also help preserve biodiversity, as they are often more diverse and well-suited to the ecosystem than commercially available varieties. Additionally, using these seeds can promote sustainable farming practices, reduce the need for chemical inputs, and improve food security by fostering more resilient agricultural systems.



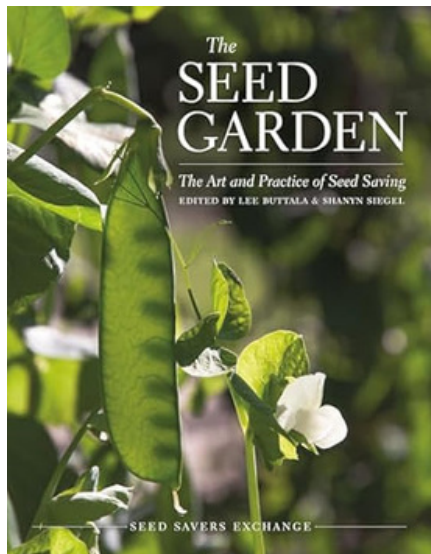
## What is heirloom, open-pollinated, or hybrid seed?

Heirloom, open-pollinated, and hybrid seeds each have distinct characteristics. Heirloom seeds are traditional varieties passed down through generations, often valued for their unique flavors, colors, and historical significance. They are open-pollinated, meaning they are naturally pollinated by insects, wind, or other natural means, and can be saved and replanted year after year with consistent traits. Open-pollinated seeds are similar but may not be as old or culturally significant as heirlooms; they also produce stable, reliable offspring when saved. Hybrid seeds, on the other hand, result from crossbreeding different plant varieties to achieve specific traits, such as disease resistance or higher yields. While hybrids often offer improved performance, they cannot be saved and replanted reliably, as their offspring may not inherit the same desirable traits.

To search the library database for books on gardening, seed saving, and more...



# What are some of the best seed saving resources?



**Seed Savers Exchange** – A non-profit organization that provides a wealth of information on seed saving, along with an extensive seed bank of heirloom varieties. They offer guides, workshops, and a community of like-minded gardeners.

**The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Seed Saving** – is a book that covers essential topics such as how to save seeds from a wide variety of vegetables, herbs, and flowers, and how to ensure that the seeds are of high quality for future planting. It provides detailed instructions on techniques for harvesting, cleaning, storing, and drying seeds, as well as guidelines for maintaining genetic diversity and preventing cross-pollination.

**The High Mowing Organic Seeds Blog** – High Mowing offers both organic seeds and educational content, including articles and videos on seed saving.  
Website: [highmowingseeds.com](http://highmowingseeds.com)

**The National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service (ATTRA)** – ATTRA offers free resources and fact sheets on seed saving for sustainable farming practices. Their materials are great for both small-scale farmers and home gardeners.  
Website: [attra.ncat.org](http://attra.ncat.org)

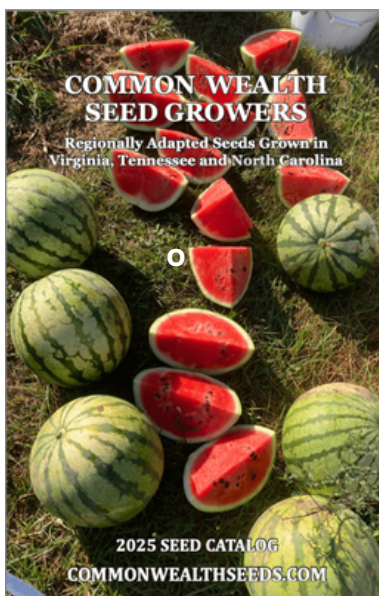
**Seed Saving Guide by Seed Savers Exchange** – A practical and detailed guide for gardeners interested in saving their own seeds.



## Who are Common Wealth Seed Growers?



Common Wealth Seed Growers is a cooperative of six farms in Central Virginia and Tennessee dedicated to producing and promoting regionally adapted, open-pollinated seeds. Their mission centers on fostering a resilient, decentralized seed system that empowers local farmers and gardeners. By conducting rigorous variety trials and breeding programs, they focus on developing crops with strong disease resistance, excellent flavor, and suitability for organic, low-input conditions. Their offerings include cucumbers, melons, squash, pumpkins, and other vegetables, all grown organically—most are certified organic—and all are untreated and non-GMO. Importantly, they grow all the seeds they sell, ensuring quality and regional adaptation. Through their work, Common Wealth Seed Growers aim to reconnect communities with seed stewardship, enhance food sovereignty, and promote sustainable agricultural practices.



## SEED COMPANIES

The seed companies listed below are a great source of heirloom and/or open-pollinated seed varieties. Companies with (\*\*) have free printed catalogs you can order online. Other seed companies may have full online versions of their seed catalogs.

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds\*\*  
Seed Savers Exchange\*\*  
Botanical Interests\*\*  
Southern Exposure Seed Exchange\*\*  
Territorial Seeds\*\*  
MiGardener  
Hudson Valley Seed Co.\*\*  
Wild Boar Farms  
Trade Winds Fruit  
Seeds of Change  
Sow True Seed  
Seeds Now  
Fruition Seeds  
PineTree Garden Seeds\*\*  
Irish Eyes Garden Seeds  
Common Wealth Seed Growers\*\*

To learn more about The Local Exchange...

