



Seed Saving for Brassicas & Leafy Greens

Flowering & pollination

- Brassicas bolt and will produce yellow flowers typically in Feb- April
- Spring weather signals to the plant that it has survived the winter and now it is time to reproduce.
- They are insect-pollinated
- Seed pods form after all flowers have dried up

Which plants to save from

Select plants that:

- Are healthy
- Have good shape and vigor
- Show no disease

How seed forms

- Flowers turn into long thin seed pods (called siliques)
- Pods turn:
 - green → tan → brown

Seeds are ready when:

- Pods are dry and papery

Harvesting seed

- Remove seed pods from plants when they are brown
- Place pods on a burlap or newspaper inside of a flat surface to absorb any excess moisture
- Let dry completely for 1–2 weeks

Cleaning seed

- Gently crush pods by hand
- Separate seed from chaff
- Lightly blow or peel off to remove debris

Storage

- Store seeds:
 - Cool, dry place
 - Use paper envelopes or jars with a desiccant

Typical viability:

- 3–5 years