

<https://linkr.ee/growujamaa>

Growing for Ujamaa: Seed Increases

a.k.a. “extensions”, i.e. growing to increase stocks of rare seeds

Approved by Seed Operations [May 15 2024]

We often begin with very small amounts of certain seeds, especially when we receive them from the USDA. In such cases, we need to do an “increase”, which means we need a grower to spend a season (or two, in some cases) growing out the seeds simply to increase our stocks in order to have enough seeds to safely maintain the variety and/or grow it for catalog sales in subsequent years.

We strongly recommend you reference the excellent seed growing guides for a wide variety of crops from our friends at Southern Exposure Seed Exchange:

<https://www.southernexposure.com/growing-guides/>

Grower’s Name: _____

Seeds being grown for increase in 2024:

Latin Name	Isolation distance	Seed amount	Compensation

These are the requirements and expectations related to doing a seed increase for Ujamaa:

- 1) UCFA will provide stock seeds and instructions.
- 2) Unless otherwise directed, you should **PLANT ALL OF THE SEEDS YOU ARE GIVEN**. We will hold some in reserve whenever possible, so you should not hold

any in reserve yourself. This is important because adequate **population size** is critical for good variety maintenance.

- 3) You **must** keep plants isolated from any other plants of the same species. This means if you are doing an increase of a summer squash (*Cucurbita pepo*), you must not grow any other squash of the same species (including patty pan, crookneck, ornamental gourds, or orange jack-o-lantern-type pumpkins) within the minimum required isolation distance for that species. For squash, for instance, that distance is ½ mile. You must also ensure none of your neighbors are growing the same species within the required isolation distance ([see attached chart](#)).
- 4) If you successfully increase seeds for a particular crop one season, you have “first dibs” on growing the same variety in subsequent year(s) for the Ujamaa catalog. But you relinquish your claim on that variety if you choose not to grow it the first growing season after your increase (we may try to get it to another grower instead).
- 5) You must take photos throughout the growing season, ideally at every stage of development (seedling, flowering, fruiting, post-harvest, etc). Please record growing notes throughout the season, including pest and disease reports, planting dates, dates of first flowering (estimates are fine), fruiting, ripening, culinary uses, qualities or drawbacks of the variety, etc. Please record anything of note.
- 6) UCFA will provide multiple opportunities to communicate with members of the Ujamaa Seed Operations Working Group throughout the season.

Your Seed Ops coordinator this year is: _____

Their contact info is: _____

- 7) Compensation/stipends
 - a) Growers can earn up to \$150 for each seed increase they do for UCFA, paid out once per year. Growers get \$50 for showing that they've done their best (e.g. checking-in with regional coordinator and documenting with photos that they've planted the seeds, kept the seedlings weeded, documented crop-failures, etc), and \$100 for sending any amount of regenerated seeds back to UCFA.

- b) If, while doing an increase, you think you've produced enough seeds to sell in the Ujamaa catalog (*roughly enough to fill at least 100 packets — visit UjamaaSeeds.com to see typical seeds-per-packet for each type of crop — minus 400 seeds needed for germination testing*), please contact your regional coordinator, or any member of the Seed Ops Working Group, as soon as possible, in order for us to get the seeds into the catalog — and/or help you sell your seeds to another seed company.
 - c) Seeds sent to UCFA should be cleaned to the best of your ability.
- 8) UCFA is invested in having successful seed increases, as well as giving new growers a more than fair chance to get involved in seed saving. We want to know how your season goes, even if you are not successful. Based on communication and information from the growing season, we will use this to decide whether to offer you seed contracts in the future. This includes how much information we get from growing notes, as well as how much seed you choose to return.
- 9) Return seeds to Ujamaa. Mail seeds to:
- UCFA Seed Shop
 - c/o Bonnetta Adeeb
 - 1908 Catherine Fran Drive
 - Accokeek, MD 20607
- 10) Contact your closest seed hub coordinator (or any member of the Seed Ops Working Group) with any questions, concerns, or issues throughout the season.
- 11) In the event of a crop failure, please start taking photos as soon as the plants begin to struggle and contact your regional coordinator immediately (we might be able to help). Even if we can't help save your crop, it's important that we figure out what went wrong (especially in the case of a seed-borne disease).

Note: Some crops are not propagated by seed, but vegetatively, such as by tubers, bulbs, or cuttings. Requirements, compensation, and schedules for these may vary from what's described in this document, but will be agreed upon between you and your regional coordinator at the start of the season.