

Charlotte Seed Library

2021 Seed Catalog

We are here to support people in growing some of their own foods, in eco-friendly ways that promote healthy soil and preserve biodiversity, using at least some heritage seeds; and helping them learn how to save seed for themselves and to share with others.

We do this by making small amounts of selected heritage variety seeds available, for free, to local gardeners; and by providing educational opportunities and support through programs, workshops, and educational resources.



*We want to make it easy for you to
grow your own heirloom vegetables.*

*If you're new to gardening or seed saving, you've come to the right
place for support, education, and community!*

*If you're an experienced seed saver, we appreciate your support!
By helping us to grow out and save seeds, you're building
community and helping to support your fellow gardeners.*

ADOPT-AN-HEIRLOOM

*Help us maintain our stock! Ask us about adopting a variety —
steward and grow out a particular variety, to help us
replenish and expand our seed stock.
We'd love to have you join the team!*

**Contact us at seed@charlottepubliclibrary.org to request
seeds from the 2021 Seed Library Catalog.
Thanks for participating, and happy gardening!**

Linda Hamilton and Karen Tuininga, Coordinators

Easiest Seeds To Grow And Save

Start here...

Beans and Peas

Annuals and self-pollinated varieties are the easiest to grow and save seed from. Try growing these varieties first, for your most successful seed-saving experience!

Bush Bean: Dragon Langerie

Unique purple-streaked white 6-8" flat pods, also known as Dragon's Tongue. Streaks fade when cooked. Versatile variety with super flavor and crispness as fresh snap bean, and also great as shelled or dry.

Dry Bush Bean: Jacob's Cattle

Full-flavored dry bean excellent for long cooking; holds its shape and has rich aroma. Red and white speckled. Legend is that it was a gift from Maine's Passamaquoddy Native Americans to Joseph Clark, the first white child born in Lubec, Maine.

Dry Pole Bean: Rattlesnake

Exceptional flavor dry, shelled or fresh. 10' tall vines with 8" pods. Picked fresh, beans are round and dark green with unusual purple streaks that fade when cooked. Shelled beans are beige, with rattlesnake streaks when fully dry.



Pole Bean: Kentucky Wonder

Unbeatable productivity, consistency and flavor. Introduced in Kentucky just prior to the Civil War, this classic variety has proved its excellence over many generations. Stringless 7-9" pods, solid and meaty with great flavor fresh or dry.

Pea: Cascadia Snap

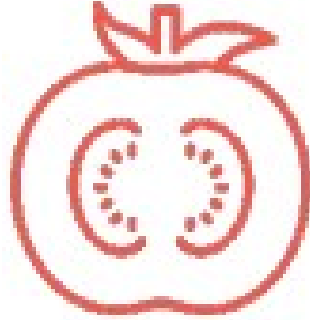
A must-have main season variety with heavy yields of juicy, thick-walled pods. Bucketloads of plump pods with tiny, distinctively delicious peas on 3' tall vines. Multiple disease resistances allow for spring and late season plantings.

Pea: Green Arrow Shell

Classic main-crop pea with slim, densely packed pointed pods. High yielding variety with plenty of pods for easy harvesting. Heavy, reliable production. Plants are 24-30 inches tall.

Easiest Seeds To Grow And Save

Tomatoes



Amish Paste Tomato

Bright red, heart-shaped fruits with meaty, juicy texture; 8-12 oz each; very few seeds. The classic paste tomato, --flavorful and juicy enough for slicing, with great meatiness for cooking down. Sweeter than other paste tomatoes. Indeterminate growth habit.

Brandywine Red Tomato

Big, beautiful 16 oz fruits that first brought recognition to the term heirloom. Well known and loved for its perfect flavor balance of sugars and acids. Delicious, deep rosenred flesh is smooth and incredibly juicy. Pick just before ripe to avoid cracking. Indeterminate growth habit.

Cherokee Purple Tomato

Large beefsteak fruits with mauve-purple skin, green shoulders and red flesh; 12-16 oz each. The most popular of the "black" tomatoes for its outstanding flavor and texture. Believed to trace back over 100 years to the Cherokee Nation of Native Americans.

Red Pear Tomato

Prolific yields of bright red, perfectly pear-shaped fruits; <1 oz each. Firm, sweet tomatoes that pop in your mouth. Vigorous, prolific, indeterminate plants produce abundantly right up until frost.

Yellow Pear Tomato

Sweet, tangy yellow pear-shaped fruits; <1 oz each. Similar in shape and size to Red Pear, with slightly tarter flavor. Thick skin resists cracking. Indeterminate growth habit.

Peacevine Tomato

Prolific red cherries with delicious flavor! A de-hybridized selection of Sweet 100 F1, known for its incredible flavor and resistance to cracking. Produces high yields of uniform bright crimson 1" tomatoes. Very high in Vitamin C and amino acids. Bred by Peace Seeds.

Aunt Ruby's German Green Tomato

Large beefsteak fruits with sweet juicy flesh and a hint of spiciness. Ready to harvest when soft and yellow-green. 80-95 days from transplant.

Easiest Seeds To Grow And Save

Peppers, Mache, and Lettuce

Corno Di Toro Pepper (sweet)

Attractive scarlet Italian-type fruits versatile and great for eating raw, stuffed, grilled or as traditionally fried in olive oil and sprinkled with parmesan. 6-8" narrow fruits, often ending with the signature curved bullhorn, quickly turn gold and then a beautiful deep crimson color with sweet, full-bodied flavor when fully ripe. Plants are vigorous with a strong upright habit.



Bull Nose Bell Pepper (sweet)

Likely introduced to North America in the 1700's. Crisp fruits ripen from green to red with an excellent flavor. Productive, sturdy plants.

Mache — Specialty Green

Also known as lamb lettuce or corn salad. Dark green rosettes that are especially flavorful, nutritious, and cold-hardy. You can overwinter under mulch for an early spring harvest, or grow in a cold frame for fresh winter salads. Mache has been cultivated in the US since at least 1840, and harvested in the wild for centuries before that.

Grandma Hadley's Lettuce (butterhead)

Dark purple-tinged leaves that are buttery, crisp, and slightly sweet. Moderate sized plants, 6" tall by 11" in diameter.

Gold Rush Lettuce (looseleaf)

The citrus-green leaves of this lettuce are strikingly frilled, curly, and crinkled. Adds a unique texture to salad; holds without bolting for an extended period, with mild fresh flavor that complements any salad.

Rotkopf (Redhead) Lettuce (butterhead)

Red-tinged leaves in loose heads. Heads are large, full, and tender, with an excellent mild flavor.

Freckles Lettuce (red-spotted romaine)

For baby greens or full-size heads. An unusual attractive bright green upright romaine with crimson splashes. Crisp texture; heat tolerant.



Trickier Seeds To Save — But Still Easy To Grow!

Trickier...

Squashes
and
Cucumbers

Varieties that rely on insects for pollination can still be easy to grow, but require a bit more planning for seed-saving success.

We encourage you to grow these wonderful heirloom varieties in your home garden, and if you want to save their seeds, be sure to use recommended plant spacing and other guidelines to distance similar varieties from each other enough to avoid cross-pollination.

A good source for more information is our blog at www.charlotteseedlibrary.org.

Costata Romanesco Zucchini (summer squash) *Curcubita pepo*
Unique, slightly nutty flavor and exceptional texture. Italian heirloom with tender, gray-green skin and prominent ribbing.

Yellow Crookneck (summer squash) *C. pepo*
Prolific tender lemon-yellow fruits with a signature bent neck.
Best harvested at 5-6" long or smaller for best flavor and texture.

Pennsylvania Dutch Crookneck (winter squash) *C. moschata*
Gorgeous and enormous—fruits weigh 10 to 20 lbs. Sweet, dark-orange flesh, excellent for pies or soups. Good keeper.

A note about saving squash seeds...

To successfully save your squash variety, you will need to maintain adequate isolation distances from other squashes or somehow prevent cross pollination. However ~ There are actually three different species of squashes, and they will not cross with each other. So, you could grow a *Curcubita pepo*, a *Curcubita moschata*, and a *Curcubita maxima* and save seeds from all three—as long as you don't have a near neighbor who is also growing squash.

Suyo Long Cucumber

Long Asian burpless cucumber with sweet flavor and crisp texture. Great fresh or pickling or cooking. 15" fruits are spiny when young, becoming smoother at peak maturity; tend to curl on one end so trellis vines for straight fruit. Widely adapted and heat tolerant.

Lemon Yellow Cucumber

Specialty variety prized by chefs for its delicate flavor and crunchy bite. 3" round fruits turn from pale greenish yellow to lemon yellow. Easy to grow; does well in short seasons; great for large containers.

Trickier Seeds To Save — But Still Easy To Grow!

Corn and Spinach



Tom Thumb Popcorn

3-4" ears of yellow popcorn; 1-2 ears per dwarf 3' plant. Extra-early producer which succeeds even in cold climates. Pops well with a slightly denser texture than commercial popcorn; also fun for decoration. Improved by E. Meader at University of New Hampshire.

Bloomsdale Long Standing Spinach

Very cold hardy dark green leaves with heavily savoyed texture. For early spring and fall; good cold soil emergence but a tendency to bolt in the heat. Performs well in winter greenhouses or overwintered outdoors under mulch. David Landreth developed the original Bloomsdale spinach in the 1800s.



Saving Lemon Yellow Cucumber Seeds

Where Can I Learn More About Saving Seeds?

We offer educational events throughout the growing season.

Follow our blog to stay up-to-date on all the happenings!

www.charlotteseedlibrary.org

You will also find links there to more information and resources.

Trickiest Seeds To Save—But Still Easy To Grow!

Trickiest!

Beets, Carrots,
Kale, and Swiss
Chard

Biennials are a little trickier if you want to save your own seed, but still easy to grow! Be sure to try growing these wonderful varieties in your garden, and if you're ready to step up your skills, try your hand at saving the seed too! These varieties require two growing seasons in order to successfully produce seeds.



Detroit Dark Red Beets

Well known for high quality 3" roots with strong tops. Excellent for eating fresh or canning; store well over winter. First developed in Ontario and released by D.M. Ferry & Co. in 1892.

Danvers Carrots

Developed in the late 1800s in Danvers MA. Stores well and produces high yields even in clay and heavy soils. Bright-orange flesh is nearly coreless, sweet, and tender. Uniform roots grow up to 8" long.



Red Russian Kale

One of the hardiest and most tender-leaved of all kales. Beautiful, frilly, purple-veined, blue-green leaves tinged with red-purple. Vigorous plants grow 18-36" tall. Leaves have a mild, sweet flavor.



Dwarf Blue Curled Scotch Kale

Gorgeous, finely curled blue-green leaves hold their color even in severe cold. Uniform low-growing plants are 15" tall with a 20-35" spread. Very hardy; will overwinter with mulch in zones 4-5. Ornamental and delicious.

Rhubarb (Ruby) Red Chard

Beautifully contrasting narrow crimson red stems and bright green savoyed leaves. Tolerates light frost in spring and fall. Perfect for microgreens or baby leaf production because stem and leaf veins color early.



*Request seeds at
seed@charlottepubliclibrary.org
and arrange for
contact-less pick-up on the
Charlotte Library porch.*



Easy To Grow And To Save

NEW for 2021!! Herbs and Edible Flowers
~ for you and your pollinators!

Cilantro / Coriander

Fresh leaves are used in many cuisines as cilantro; the seeds are collected and used as a spice called coriander.

Dill Bouquet

Prolific producer of edible flowers, leaves, and seeds, all of which can be used for flavoring everything from pickles and salads to sauces and condiments.

Borage

Bees love these beautiful, blue, star-shaped edible flowers. Put them in your salads, candy them, or freeze them into ice cubes for drinks.

Calendula Resina

Edible and medicinal, calendula (also called pot marigold) belongs in every garden. This mixture offers spectacular colors and petal formations. Petals are tangy and sweet.

Nasturtium Ladybird

Edible flowers! Eye catching, orange-yellow flowers with bright red central markings. Ideal for container gardening or garden plot — 8-10" tall

**Send inquiries and seed requests to
seed@charlottepubliclibrary.org
For more information, helpful resources, calendar of events, and to
join the Seed Library Circle, visit our blog at
www.charlotteseedlibrary.org**