

SEED SAVING

For thousands of years, gardeners and farmers saved seeds from their crops for future planting. Many home gardeners continue this practice today. Learn why and how.

Why save seeds?

- ✓ Saves money
- ✓ Promotes sustainability
- ✓ Encourages biodiversity
- ✓ Sets up growing success

What seeds to save?

- Save seeds from healthy plants
- Save mature seeds
- Save open-pollinated and heirloom seeds

How to save seeds?

- Use correct dry/wet method
- Dry completely before storing
- Label the container, including the date
- Store in a cool, dry place
- Store in pest-/water-resistant container

What next?

- Swap seeds with friends or donate to seed library
- Follow any steps needed for seed germination before planting (e.g., soaking or scarification)

RESOURCES

- blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/orange-co/2020/08/28/seed-saving-basics/
- edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/VH026

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When saving seeds, ***DON'T***...

- Be a “seed pirate” who saves patented/protected seeds
- Save seeds from invasive plants
- Save hybrid seeds, typically marked “F1” on the seed packet... unless you like surprises
- Save seeds from protected areas (like parks) without a permit
- Store seeds that are damp or wet
- Store seeds in a hot area, like a car
- Save seeds from unhealthy plants, as seeds may carry pest/disease
- Hold your *first* harvest to fully mature the seeds for saving, because the plant may stop producing (e.g., beans and peas produce more when you harvest often)



LEARN MORE

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