

# WPL Seed Lending Library



## Seed Saving

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### Basic seed saving guidelines

- Plan your garden to reduce cross-pollination by using isolation distances below.
  - Always save seeds from the healthiest, "true-to-type" plants.
  - Select seeds for different characteristics such as size, taste, & disease-resistance.
  - Don't save seeds from plants labeled hybrids, F1, F, or PVP.
  - Label your garden and packets.
  - Never plant all your seeds in one year.
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### Lettuce

**Plant:** Plant different varieties of lettuce 10 ft apart. Plant at least 10-20 seeds of each variety. Plant using typical spacing. Before they crowd each other, thin the 10-20 plants that are being grown for seed to 12-16" on center spacing.

**Harvest:** When growing lettuce to seed, let the lettuce bolt. When half the flowers have turned white & fluffy, cut off the stalk and put upside down in a brown paper bag to dry. Remove chaff.

**Labeling:** Besides labeling the variety, specify the category of lettuce: romaine/cos, looseleaf, crisphead, butterhead/bibb or celtuce.

**Expected Seed Life:** 6 years

### Peas & Common Beans

**Plant:** Plant different varieties of peas or common beans 10-20 ft apart. Plant a minimum of 5-10 plants of each variety. Common beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) include green, pinto, and pole beans.

**Harvest:** Let beans and peas dry on the vine until crispy. Collect. Shell.

**Labeling:** Peas: bush/vining; use soup/shelling/snap/snow. Beans: bush/pole; green/dry/freezing/canning.

**Expected Seed Life:** 3-4 years

### Fava, Lima & Runner Beans

**Plant:** Only plant one variety of each fava, lima and runner beans. These species have big flowers and can easily cross with other varieties! Plant at least 10-25 plants. Harvesting process and seed life are same as common beans.

### Tomatoes

**Plant:** Isolate different varieties by 10 ft. Pop. Size: 5-10 plants.

**Harvest:** Collect ripe tomatoes. Squeeze pulp and seeds into a jar. Let ferment 2-3 days until a mold forms. Add water. Pour off mold, floating seeds and pulp. Viable seeds sink. Repeat. Put on a labeled paper to dry.

**Expected Seed Life:** 4-6 years

**Labeling:** Determinant (bush)/ Indeterminant (vining); use slicer/paste/ drying/canning/freezing; color; shape; size.

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