



What are seeds?

A plant produces seeds in order to reproduce itself. Just like an egg has to be fertilized to become a new animal, a seed must be pollinated to produce a new plant. Understanding pollination is key to getting seeds to produce the plants you want. Some plants are **self-pollinating** -- the male and female parts are contained within a single flower that fertilizes itself. Other plants, called **cross-pollinators**, have separate male and female flowers and their pollen has to get from one flower to another in order for the flowers to be fertilized.

LLD SEED LIBRARY SEEDS

The seeds from families of plants that are self-pollinating are labeled "Easy" to save. Cross-pollinators are labeled "Advanced" because it takes effort to keep them from crossing with other plants.



Types of seeds in the collection

Open-pollinated or **heirloom** varieties have been grown for many generations keeping their physical and genetic qualities relatively stable. This seed will be "true to type" if saved. In simple terms, *you will reap what you sow*.

Hybrid seeds are seeds in our "Local Harvest Collection" that may not produce plants exactly like the parent plant. They may produce something somewhat or very different.

Plant Families

If you learn the family, genus and species of vegetables, you will also learn their basic seed saving needs and risks.

Families define the basic form of the flower parts of plants. All plants with the same flower (and reproductive) structure are in the same family.

Genera (singular: Genus) define more closely related plants. Crosses between genera are rare but can occur.

Species define specific botanically recognized plants with similar fruit, flowers, and leaves. Plants within one species will readily cross with each other.

Cultivars are cultivated varieties that can cross with each other but will not cross with varieties of other species. When we save seeds we usually want to maintain a cultivar or breed a new one.

Example:

Family: cucurbitaceae

Genus: *Cucurbita*

Species: *Cucurbita pepo*

Cultivars: Acorn squash, Warty ground

**Please support the LLD Seed Library
by returning seeds to share**

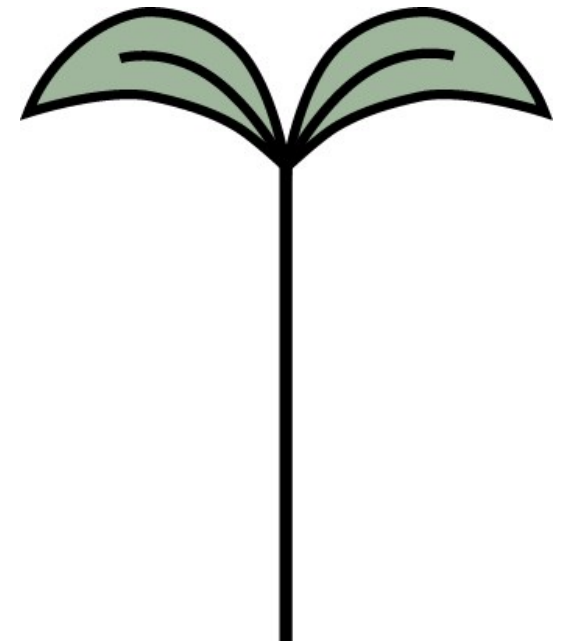
**777 Front Street
Lisle, IL 60532**

(630) 971-1675

lislelibrary.org



THE LLD SEED LIBRARY



SEED SAVING

OUR GOAL

The LLD Seed Library preserves genetic diversity, develops local resilience, increases food education, and encourages direct action.





How to Borrow Seeds

1. Visit the Connection Desk.
2. Choose up to 5 seed packets.
3. Check out seeds with your library card.

New to Seed Saving?

Start with seeds that are labeled “Easy.” If you attend a **Seed Saving 101 Orientation**, your returned seeds will be added to our heirloom collection. Other harvested seeds will be added to the “Local Harvest Collection.”

Easy to save:

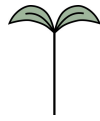
- beans
- lettuce
- peppers
- eggplant
- peas
- tomatoes

The seeds that are labeled “Advanced” require special planning to preserve varietal purity.

If certain precautions are not taken with them, then the next grower will not get the same plant.

We want to ensure that the seeds that you return to the library are indeed what they claim to be.

When borrowing “Advanced” seeds please learn about isolating plants to prevent cross-pollination if you’d like to share them.



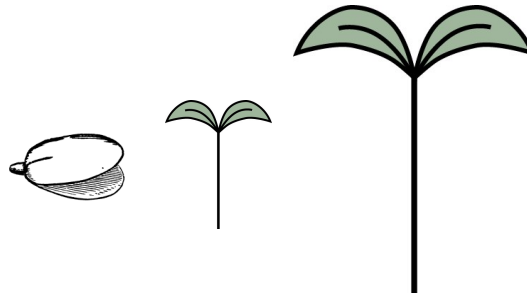
Library Organization

The LLD Seed Library is shelved at the Connection Desk

The collection is divided into 3 categories: “Easy,” “Advanced,” and “Local Harvest Collection.” Family names are labeled with common members of the family.

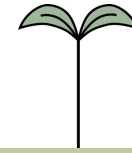
For example:

Gourd family: cucumber, gourds, melon, pumpkin.



Learn More

- Come to Library Seed Saving 101 Orientations.
- Talk to experienced seed saving gardeners.
- Read about seed saving under call numbers **631.5 & 635**.
- Join the seedsavers.org online forum or watch the webinars offered



How to Return and Donate Seeds

1. Read the LLD Seed Library brochure.
2. Attend a *Seed Saving 101 Orientation* class if possible.
3. Plant and harvest your vegetables.
4. Save seeds from healthy plants. *Instructions available at the Connection Desk.*
5. Return the packet back to the Connection Desk.

Local Harvest Collection:

1. If you’d like to share *other* seeds from your home garden, return saved seeds in an envelope.
2. Provide plant information on *Local Harvest Collection Form*.
3. Email photograph of plant (if possible) to connect@lislelibrary.org for seed packet identification purposes.

The LLD Seed Library does not knowingly accept genetically modified or patented seeds.

Sources consulted/info for this brochure :

- Richmond Grows Seed Lending Library: RichmondGrowsSeeds.org
- Bakers Creek Heirloom Seed Company: RareSeeds.com
- Seedsavers.org