



T.B. Scott Free Library

2021 SEED GUIDE

Includes Growing and
Seed Saving Tips

The T.B. Scott Seed Library provides starter packets of open-pollinated, non-hybrid seeds of heirloom-variety plants to increase the array of plants grown in our community and to enlarge each Seed Library user's personal seed bank.



General Information

- **On the Web:** Visit the T.B. Scott Free Library's website at www.tbscottlibrary.org/seed-library for a list of recommended seed saving books, websites, and local contacts.
- **Local Contact:** Dan Marzu, Agriculture Extension Educator of UW-Madison, Division of Extension Lincoln County. Dan is able to help with all your gardening needs, including pest control, seed saving, fertilizer, etc. Contact via email, dan.marzu@wisc.edu, or phone, 715-539-1078.
- **Library:** The T.B. Scott Free Library offers a variety of gardening and heirloom seed books. Visit our website to search our online catalog: www.tbscottlibrary.org or visit the library in person.



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Borrow • Grow • Return

Borrow

- Grab a burlap sack to collect your seeds
- Select one "BORROW" seed packet and a matching "RETURN" seed packet for each of the seven seed varieties available
- Checkout your seeds with the helpful Library staff

Grow

- Grow your seeds

Return

- Harvest your seeds; **keep enough seeds for you to use next year, about 90%.**
- Put the remaining 10% of your seeds into the "RETURN" envelope.
- Return seed packets to Library in burlap sack by **October 31, 2021**
- Please Note: even if you have no seeds to return, the Burlap bag must be returned by October 31, 2021 to avoid a \$5 replacement fee.





Bountiful Bean

In 1898 Abel Steele of Ferguson, Ontario won a \$25.00 prize for naming this new variety from Peter Henderson & Company, previously known as "New Green Bush Bean No. 1." Heavy crops of excellent quality, brittle, stringless 6-7" pods. Productive plants grow up to 18" tall. Sprawling bush habit, snap, 45-50 days, the shortest growing season of all bean plants!

Instructions - Sow seeds outdoors after danger of frost has passed and soil and air temperatures have warmed. Harvest dry beans when the pods are completely mature and dry.

Save beans by allowing pods to remain on plant until dry. Beans will rattle inside pod. Break open pods, remove beans, store in dry, airtight containers for use next year.



Parade Cucumber

Popular Russian variety. Heavy set of uniform fruits that mature at relatively the same time, making it a good processing variety. Fruits are 5" long by 2" in diameter, one of the favorites at the Seed Savers' Heritage Farm. Resistant to extreme weather conditions. 50-60 days.

Instructions - Sow seeds outdoors in 12" diameter hills after the last frost when soil is warm. Space hills 6' apart in all directions. Can also be started indoors 2-4 weeks before the last frost for an earlier harvest. Cucumbers benefit from consistent moisture. Provide support for vines to save space.

Save seeds by slicing cucumbers open lengthwise. Scoop seeds into bowl or jar, cover with water, allow to ferment for 3-4 days. After fermentation, rinse pulp from seeds, allow seeds to dry on paper plate or coffee filter for 3-7 days. Store in dry, airtight container for use next year.





Sutton's Harbinger Pea

English introduction by Suttons Seeds in 1898; won an Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society in 1901. This is a very early heavy-cropping variety, an excellent quality eating pea. Plants are 28-32" tall. Shell, 52-60 days.

Instructions - Peas thrive in cool weather. Sow seeds outdoors as soon as soil can be worked in spring. Seeds will germinate in 7-14 days. Double rows of peas can be planted on each side of a trellis.

Save seeds by leaving some pods on the plant until past ripe. Pods will dry and turn brown. Remove pods, break open, save wrinkled peas. Save peas in airtight, cool places for use next year. Peas like cool locations, so storing airtight container in refrigerator is good.



**OUTSTANDING OF
ALL-TIME VARIETY**

*Seed Saver
Exchange Members*

Black Krim Tomato

Also called Black Crimea and introduced to SSE by Lars Olov Rosenstrom of Sweden. Originally from the Crimean peninsula in the Black Sea. Beefsteak fruits are a unique combination of violet-brown and purple-red—they turn almost black with sufficient sunlight and heat. Excellent full flavor. Indeterminate, 70-90 days from transplant.

Instructions - Sow seeds indoors $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep. Tomatoes are sensitive to freezing temperatures, so wait to transplant outdoors until the soil is warm. Plant in full sun.

Save tomato seeds by cutting tomato in half and squeezing out pulp into a jar or bowl. Let sit for 3-4 days as pulp ferments and separates from seeds. Add non-chlorinated water to keep seeds wet. After 3-4 days, skim off any floating seeds – they are no good. Remaining seeds may be rinsed in a strainer then dried on paper plates or coffee filters. When dry, place seeds in dry, airtight containers for use next year.





Table Queen Squash

(*C. pepo*) (aka Des Moines, or Danish Squash) This variety set the standard for Acorn squash and started the rage for small individual fall squashes. Introduced by the Iowa Seed Company of Des Moines, Iowa in 1913. Petite (1 pound), furrowed, soft shelled, high quality fruits with sweet orange flesh. Excellent for baking. 80-90 days.

Instructions - Sow seeds outdoors in 12" diameter hills after danger of frost has passed. Hills should be spaced 6' apart in all directions. Can also be started indoors 3 weeks before transplanting out.

Save seeds by slicing squash in half. Scoop seeds out, rinse in water to separate seeds from pulp, dry on paper for 3-7 days. Store seeds in dry, airtight container for use next year.



Minnesota Midget Melon

Extra-early variety bred by the University of Minnesota at St. Paul in 1948; introduced by Farmer Seed and Nursery Company. Capable of producing two crops—an excellent choice for northern gardeners. Vines seldom over 3' long; suitable for growing in containers. Round 4" fruits have thick golden-yellow flesh that is edible to the rind and deliciously sweet. Resistant to fusarium wilt. 60-75 days.

Instructions - Melons are warm weather plants! Sow seeds outdoors after danger of frost has passed and soil has warmed. Plant in 12" diameter hills, 1" deep and 5-6 seeds per hill. Space hills 6' apart in all directions. Seeds will germinate in 4-10 days. Thin to 2-4 plants per hill or 1 plant per container. Can also be started indoors 2-3 weeks before last frost. If grown in containers, bring containers indoors before first frost.

Save seeds by slicing ripe melons open and scooping seeds into a jar or bowl filled with water. Allow to ferment for 3-4 days. Skim off seeds that float (they are no good) and rinse the pulp off of the remaining seeds. Spread to dry on paper plate or coffee filters for at least 7 days. Store in cool, dry, airtight containers for use next year.





Chioggia Beet

Also known as Bassano, a fishing town near Venice, this historical Italian variety has been grown in the United States since at least 1865 and is noted for its alternating red-and-white concentric rings that resemble a bull's-eye. Chioggia beets are wonderful for both fresh eating and pickling. Beets retains these markings if roasted whole and sliced just before serving. 50 days.

Instructions - Sow seeds outdoors as soon as soil can be worked in spring. Seeds will germinate in 5-10 days. Beets can be planted at two-week intervals for a steady harvest. All parts of the beet plant are edible!

This crop is a biennial, meaning that it will not set seed until the second year of growth! Once seeds start ripening, there will almost always be a mixture of mature and immature seeds on plants. Harvesting when approximately two-thirds of the seeds are brown is recommended. Individual seedstalks should be cut or entire plants be pulled from the garden and moved to a place for drying. After about two weeks the seedstalks can be threshed by running a gloved hand along the length of the stalk with a container placed underneath to catch dislodged seeds. Beet seeds remain viable for up to 4 years after harvesting.



Thyme

(*Thymus vulgaris*) One of the most versatile herbs used in cooking, can be used to season any meat or vegetable. Plants grow 6-12" tall with a sprawling habit. Can be perennial in zones 5-8 or in containers brought inside to over-winter.

Instructions - Sow seeds indoors on surface of soil. Transplant outdoors after danger of frost has passed. After first year cut plants back each spring to renew them and keep them tidy. Plants prefer well-drained dry soil.

Thyme seeds are very small! Save seeds by letting one plant bolt to seed. Pull up that plant and cover the top with a small paper bag. then cinch the neck of the bag around the stalk and shake. The seeds will all shake off and be collected in the bag.

T.B. Scott Free Library
106 W. 1st St.
Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-7191
www.tbscottlibrary.org

*Produce photos and seed information, courtesy of
Seed Savers Exchange, www.seedsavers.org*