



Seed \$avings

The Basics of Collecting,
Preparing and Storing
Vegetable Seeds

“Plant a Radish” Fantastics

- “Plant a radish. Get a radish. Never any doubt. That's why I love vegetables; You know what you're about!
- Plant a turnip. Get a turnip. Maybe you'll get two. That's why I love vegetables; You know that they'll come through!”

WHY?

- Keep a family heirloom
- Share the happiness of gardening with others
- Create your own new and improved squash
- Save money

Flower Parts



Flower Types

- Perfect: has both male and female parts in one flower.
- Complete: is a perfect flower with petals and sepals.
- Imperfect or incomplete: having only either male or female flower parts.

Flower Types

- Monoecious: having either male or female flowers on one plant. Need two plants, one male one female to have offspring. Ex. Hollies
- Dioecious: having both male and female flowers on one plant. Male flowers will pollinate female to produce offspring. Ex. Squash

Pollination ie. Fruit making

- Self pollinating: no outside help needed, sometimes done before flower opens. Ex. Fig, possible tomatoes
- Self incompatible: can not use males on same plant, need separate plant and help of pollinators.

Plant Isolation Techniques

- Distance. Ex: Cole crops 1 mile, peas 100 yards
- Bags over the flower
- Tents over the entire plant
- Timing: Ex: Corn with early blooming planted first then a later maturing variety later.
- Save some this year, different ones next.

Time to Collect?

- If the seed is located within a fleshy fruit, the seed will ripen with the fruit.
- If the seed is within a capsule (pea, bean, cabbage) it is ripe as the capsule dries and splits.
- If the fruit rots, the seed can still be viable.

Post Harvest

- Label fruit and keep segregated from other fruit that may have the same looking seeds.
- How many fruit or capsules to harvest depends of how many seeds you want to save. A medium sized tomato can have 100-150 seeds while a single bean pod could hold a few as 2.

Post Harvest

- Separate the seed from the capsule or fleshy fruit. It is very important to have a clean seed to store. Can soak seeds and flesh and allow seeds to separate and sink for easier harvesting. Allow to dry on paper towel or news paper but not in the sun.

Storing

- Label, label, label.
- Airtight bags and jars
- Keep cool and dark

Problems

- Not labeling
- Seed stored before completely dry
- Insects within the seed
- Time
- Cross pollination from outside desired source
- Genetically non viable seed

Source

- Seed to Seed

Seed Saving and Growing Techniques for
Vegetable Gardeners

By Suzanne Ashworth

Questions?

- Worlds Largest Seed?
- Smallest Seed?
- Oldest Viable Seed?

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- Worlds Largest Seed?
Sea Coconut
- Smallest Seed?
- Oldest Viable Seed?

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- Smallest Seed?

Coral root Orchid

- Oldest Viable Seed?

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- Worlds Largest Seed?

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- Oldest Viable Seed?

31,800 year old silene stenophylla
seeds found in Siberian

silene stenophylla



“Plant a Radish” Fantastics

- “So Plant a carrot, Get a carrot, Not a Brussels sprout. That's why I love vegetables. You know what you're about!
- Life is merry, If it's very Vegetarian! A man who plants a garden Is a very happy man!”