



# GET READY

Are you ready to save seeds to return to the seed library?  
You'll need a few supplies:

- Fine mesh strainer for rinsing seeds
- Latex gloves for handling pepper seeds
- Mason jars (or similar) for tomato seeds and seed storage
- Coffee filters, paper towels, and/or screens for drying seeds
- Paper bags and/or shallow cardboard boxes for drying and collecting seeds
- Paper envelopes or small plastic self-sealing bags for storing seeds

# GUIDELINES

- Save seeds from healthy plants.
- Don't save seeds from hybrids or GMOs. Save seeds from multiple plants of the same variety.
- Make sure seeds are completely dry before packaging them.
- Bring your seeds to the third floor Ask Here desk.
- Fill out a short donation form.
- Donate cash, if you wish, to support next year's library.

# STORING SEEDS

Seeds kept in proper conditions may be viable (capable of germinating) for several years.

- Cool: Below 50 degrees F.
- Dark: No direct sunlight or bright artificial light. Completely dark is best.
- Dry: Place seeds in separate, labeled paper or plastic bags or envelopes. Store in air-tight glass jars.

Adapted from International Seed Saving Institute ([seedsave.org](http://seedsave.org)), Seed Savers Exchange ([seedsavers.org](http://seedsavers.org)), Vegetable Seed Saving Handbook ([howtosaveseeds.com](http://howtosaveseeds.com)), and *Basic Seed Saving* by Bill McDorman.

## LOCAL RESOURCES

### Cheyenne Botanic Gardens

710 South Lions Park Drive  
307.637.6458 | [www.botanic.org](http://www.botanic.org)

### City of Cheyenne Compost Facility

3714 Windmill Road | 307.632.5518

### Gardening with Altitude

1101 Logan Avenue | 307.514.6000

### Grant Farms Garden Center

2120 East Lincolnway | 307.635.2676

### River Bend Nursery & Stone Company

8908 Yellowstone Road | 307.638.0147

## ONLINE RESOURCES

### Cheyenne Garden Gossip

A blog by local gardener Barb Gorges  
[CheyenneGardenGossip.Wordpress.com](http://CheyenneGardenGossip.Wordpress.com)

### Colorado State University Extension

Yard and garden information  
[Extension.Colostate.edu/Topic-Areas/Yard-Garden](http://Extension.Colostate.edu/Topic-Areas/Yard-Garden)

### University of Wyoming Extension

Wyoming-specific information  
[UWyo.edu/BarnBackyard/Resources/](http://UWyo.edu/BarnBackyard/Resources/)

## CONTACT US:

Elizabeth Thorson, Manager  
Reference Services, Laramie County Library System  
307.773.7230 | [ETHorson@lclsonline.org](mailto:ETHorson@lclsonline.org)

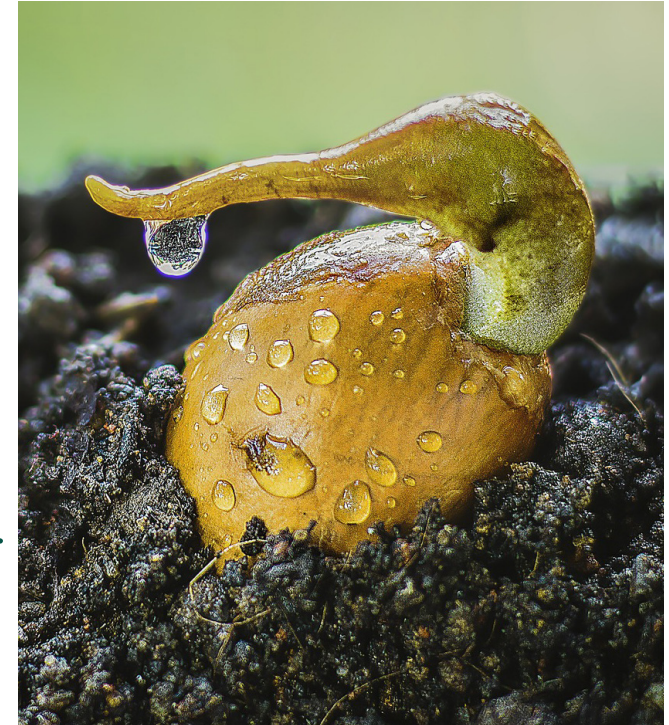
Laramie County Master Gardeners  
1400 East College Drive, Pathfinder Building, Room 406D  
307.633.4383 | [LCMGardeners@gmail.com](mailto:LCMGardeners@gmail.com)

## HOW TO VISIT US:

2200 Pioneer Avenue  
307.634.3561 | [LaramieCountyLibrary.org/Seed-Library](http://LaramieCountyLibrary.org/Seed-Library)

## HOURS:

10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Monday - Thursday
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Friday, Saturday
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Sunday



# SEED SAVING BASICS



[laramiecountylibrary.org](http://laramiecountylibrary.org)



# EASY TO SAVE PLANTS



## Bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*)

- Separate varieties by 100 feet if possible.
- Harvest pods when they turn hard, brown, and dry. If they aren't dry before the first frost, pull plants and dry indoors.
- Open pods by hand or flail large amounts. Winnow remaining chaff.

## Cosmos (*Cosmos spp.*)

- Cut seed heads as they turn brown and dry in an open paper bag. Shake to remove seeds.

## Lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*)

- Separate varieties by 20 feet if possible.
- Allow seed heads to dry on the plant for 2-3 weeks after flowering. When half the flowers on a plant have gone to seed, cut the top of the plant and dry upside down in an open paper bag.

## Lupine (*Lupinus spp.*)

- Harvest when pods are plump. Dry completely in a shallow cardboard box and shake to remove seeds.

## Pea (*Pisum sativum*)

- Separate varieties by 10-20 feet if possible.
- Harvest pods when they turn hard, brown, and dry. If they aren't dry before the first frost, pull plants and dry indoors.
- Open pods by hand or flail large amounts. Winnow remaining chaff.

## Pepper (*Capsicum annuum*)

- Separate varieties by 50 feet if possible.
- Harvest peppers for seed when they are fully ripe and beginning to soften. If they aren't mature before the first frost, pull plants and ripen indoors.
- Cut around the top of the pepper, and use the stem as a handle to twist out the core. Flick out the seeds with a knife tip.
- Dry seeds on coffee filters or screens for several days.

## Poppy (*Papaver somniferum*)

- Cut seed pods after they turn light brown and dry them in an open paper bag.
- Carefully pull the pods apart to remove the seeds.

## Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*)

- Separate varieties by 10-50 feet if possible.
- Harvest seeds when the tomato begins to soften.
- Gently squeeze pulp and seeds into a container with a little water and let it sit for 1-5 days in a warm place out of direct sunlight.
- As the pulp ferments, mold will form, viable seeds will sink, and dead seeds will float.
- Rinse the viable seeds in a strainer and air-dry on coffee filters or screens for 5-7 days.

# HARDER TO SAVE PLANTS

These plants require more care to prevent cross-pollination. Find more information on advanced seed-saving at [www.howtosaveseeds.com/isolate.php](http://www.howtosaveseeds.com/isolate.php) or consult a seed-saving book (Dewey Decimal call number 631.531).

- Beet, Swiss chard (*Beta vulgaris*)
- Cabbage family (*Brassicaceae*): broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale
- Carrot family (*Umbelliferae*): carrots, dill, cilantro, parsley
- Radish (*Raphanus sativus*)
- Spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*)
- Squash family (*Cucurbitaceae*): cucumbers, squash
- Turnip (*Brassica campestris*)

# TERMS TO KNOW

- **Pollination:** fertilization in plants
- **Self-pollination:** fertilization occurs without need for other plants, generally inside the flower before it opens
- **Cross-pollination:** pollen is exchanged by insects or wind between flowers on the same or different plants
- **Isolation:** the separation of one plant or group of plants from another to prevent cross-pollination
- **Cultivar or variety:** plants that have been bred or selected to have distinguishable, desirable traits
- **Open-pollinated:** plant varieties resulting from pollination between the same or genetically similar plants; seeds from open-pollinated varieties will produce plants like the parent plants
- **Heirloom variety:** an open-pollinated cultivar that has been grown and shared from generation to generation within a family or community
- **Hybrids:** plant varieties resulting from pollination between genetically distinct parents; seeds from hybrid plants may be sterile or different from the parent plants
- **GMOs:** genetically modified organisms; an organism that has had its genetic composition altered by way of molecular breeding techniques, such as gene splicing
- **Chaff:** plant debris such as pods or stems
- **Threshing:** separating seeds from chaff
- **Flailing:** cracking or crushing seed pods
- **Winnowing:** using moving air to separate chaff from seeds

For questions about returning saved seeds, call 307.634.3561 or visit the third floor Ask Here desk at the Laramie County Library.