



T.B. Scott Free Library

2023 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.



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Borrow - Garden - Return



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Nasturtium



Borrow • Grow • Return

Borrow

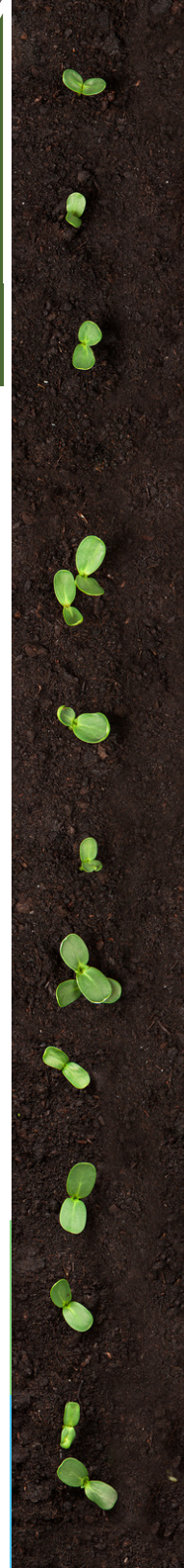
- Select one "**BORROW**" seed packet and a matching "**RETURN**" seed packet for each of the eight seed varieties available
- Checkout your seeds with the helpful Library staff

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 the Library to be used next year!





Genovese Basil

This classic large-leaved Italian sweet basil, prized for its flavor and heady aroma, is a top pick for many cooks when making pesto. Fragrant plants grow 18-24" and produce densely branched plants when pinched back regularly. Can be chopped and frozen in olive oil for winter use. Annual.

Instructions - Sow seeds outdoors when soil is warm and temperature does not drop below 65°F. Can also be started indoors 4-6 weeks before planting out. Direct seed: 1/8" deep. Thin 4-6" apart. Full sun. Pinch back flower stalks as they appear to keep plants from bolting. Prefers rich well-drained soil.

Save seeds by allowing flowers to start turning dry and brown. Snip off flower stems, place into a paper bag and close. The tiny black seeds will eventually fall out and into the bag.

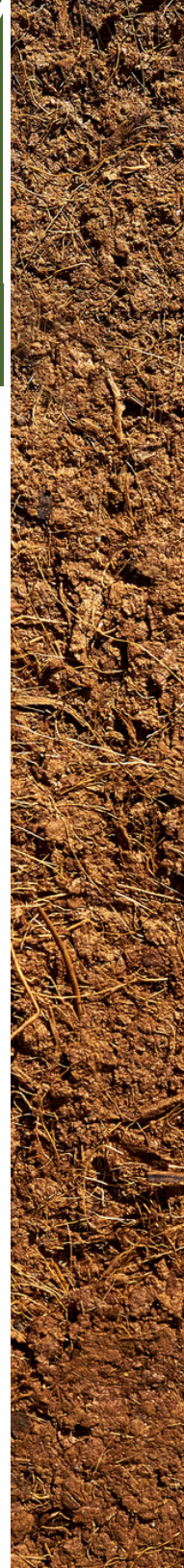


Bouquet Dill

This widely grown dill variety is a prolific producer of edible flowers, leaves, and seeds, all of which can be used for flavoring everything from pickles and salads to sauces and condiments.

Instructions - Sow seeds outdoors early in the spring when the ground has warmed. Direct seed: 1/8" deep. Thin 8-12" apart. Full sun. Prefers rich, well-drained soil and a sheltered location out of the wind. Will re-sprout each year from dropped seeds.

To harvest seeds, wait until the seeds start to turn brown. Gather the ripe seed heads by clipping them and putting them into a paper bag, and place the bag indoors in a warm, dry place for a week or more. The seeds will drop from the clippings.





Tiger's Eye Bean

Wonderfully rich flavor and smooth texture. Very tender skins almost disappear when cooked. Great for chili or refried beans. Can also be used as fresh shell beans. Productive 24" plants. Bush habit, shell or dry.

Instructions -Sow seeds outdoors after danger of frost has passed and soil and air temperatures have warmed. Direct seed: 1" deep, 2" apart. Plant rows 36-48" apart. Full sun. Harvest snap beans frequently for increased yields. Leave some pods on the vine and harvest when completely mature for dry beans.

Save seeds by leaving some pods on the plant until past ripe. Pods will dry and turn brown. Remove pods, break open, save beans. Save beans in airtight, cool places for use next year.

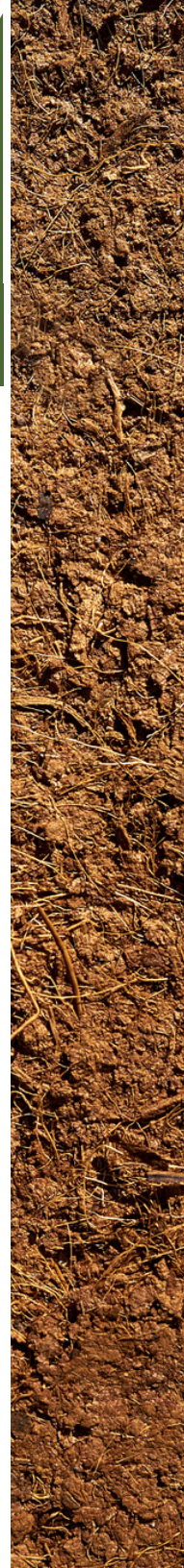


King of the North Pepper

A great bell pepper for northern gardeners where the seasons are cool and short. Blocky uniform fruits are excellent for stuffing or fresh eating. Great sweet flavor.

Instructions - Sow seeds indoors $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep. Peppers germinate best in warm soil, so gentle bottom heat may be helpful until seedlings emerge. Wait to transplant outdoors until soil is warm. Plant outdoors 12-24" apart. Full sun.

When saving pepper seeds, try to choose a fruit from the best-producing plant. Allow the chosen fruit to remain on the plant until completely ripe and begins to wrinkle. Cut open the fruit and remove the seeds, spreading them out on newspaper or paper towels to dry for about a week. Store in cool, dark, dry area.





A&C Pickling Cucumbers

Uniformly straight 10" fruits hold their dark-green color for a long time. Very productive and a good choice for pickling, as the name suggests. Excellent variety for home or market gardens. Best picked when 4-6" long.

Instructions -Direct seed: 1" deep. When growing plants on a trellis, space seed 6-8" apart and thin plants as necessary; train plants to climb the trellis with an initial guidance. Alternatively, make 12" hills at least 6' apart. Plant 6-8 cucumber seeds per hill 1" deep. After germination, thin to 3-4 plants per hill. Can also be started indoors 2-4 weeks before last frost. Cucumbers benefit from steady moisture. Full sun.

Save seeds by slicing cucumber 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.

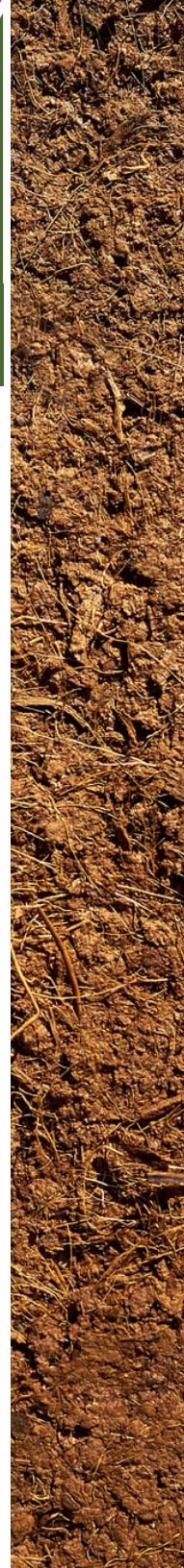


Sunflower Mix

A mixture of species and forms!

Instructions - Sow seeds outdoors after last frost. Direct seed, $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep and 6" apart. Seeds germinate in 10-14 days. Sunflowers prefer full sun to light shade and well-drained rich soil. Provide support for tall plants. Plants average 4-6' tall. Annual, starts blooming at 60 days.

Once your sunflowers have died back completely and the backs of the blooms are brown, it's time to harvest. You'll also notice the seeds are plump and somewhat loose. Cut the stalk with sharp scissors or pruners, about one foot down from the flower head, and place in a container that can catch any loose seeds.



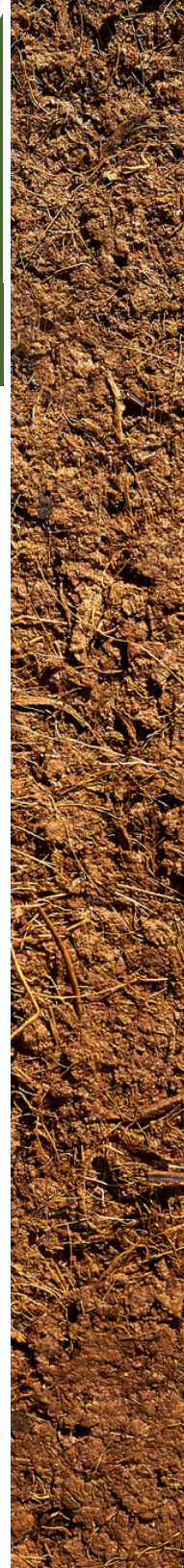


Outhouse Hollyhock

This classic variety has graced outbuildings on Iowa farmsteads for over a century. Years ago, refined ladies just looked for the hollyhocks and didn't have to ask where the outhouse was. Single blooms of white, light pink, magenta, and burgundy. Blooms the second year in the North or first year in more moderate climates. Self-seeding biennial, 6-9' tall.

Instructions - Sow seeds outdoors one week before last frost. Give space to allow airflow and grow in rich moist soil. Stake tall plants. Direct seed: 1/8" deep. Thin 18-36" apart. Sun/partial shade.

Once flower has died, it will fall off, leaving behind the seed pod. Collect seeds from pods, clean and dry. Save in cool, dry place for next year.



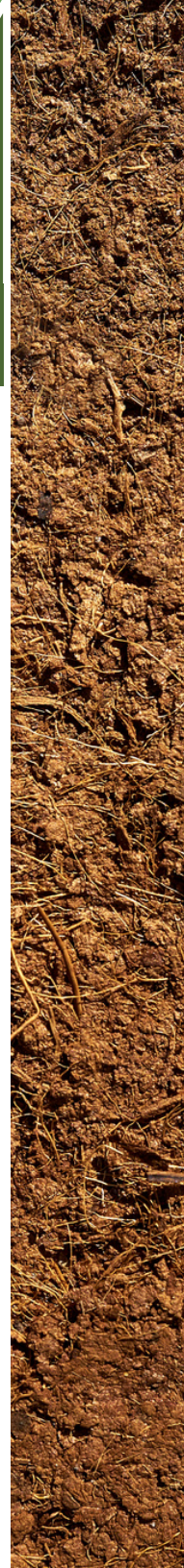


Empress of India Nasturtium

This classic Victorian nasturtium has dark blue-green foliage and brilliant crimson flowers on 12-14" plants. This variety has been grown in the United States since the 1890s, and today it is perfect for everyone's favorite contemporary gardening method: containers. Beyond the garden, the edible flowers and leaves can add style and color to plates as a garnish—or as a peppery addition to salads and pastas. Hardy annual.

Instructions - Sow seeds outdoors one week after last frost. Direct seed: 1/4" deep. Thin 6-12" apart. Plants prefer average moist soil. Water during dry spells, but do not fertilize, as this will promote more foliage than flowers. Full sun.

Don't gather seeds too early, as immature seeds are less likely to germinate. The seeds will dry and fall off, but try to gather them before they drop. The seeds can be found in the center of the flowers. Store in cool, dark, dry area for next year.





Helpful Resources

On the Web

- www.tbscottlibrary.org/seed-library
Visit the T.B. Scott Free Library's website for a list of recommended seed saving books and more.
- <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/ask-a-gardening-question/>
Visit the UW Extension "Ask the Gardener" web page to submit your gardening questions to be answered by UW-Extension county-based educators, specialists, or Master Gardeners.
- www.seedsavers.org
Visit Seed Savers Exchange website to find more information about the variety of seeds we selected and others.

Local Contact:

- Art Lersch, Area Extension Director (Langlade, Lincoln, Price, Taylor Counties). Art is able to help get you answers for your gardening needs, including pest control, seed saving, fertilizer, etc. Contact via email, art.lersch@wisc.edu or phone, 715-539-1075
- T.B. Scott Free Library offers a variety of gardening and heirloom seed books.



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

