

Seed exchanges are a great way to preserve and circulate new, rare, or heirloom varieties of plants, flowers & vegetables. Join us on Saturday, October 9th from 1-3pm. Share your favorite seeds and garden knowledge with others! A **FREE** event - Open to the public.

A FEW TIPS TO HELP MAKE OUR EVENT A SUCCESS:



The Seed:

This event is open to all legal varieties of herb, fruit, flower & vegetable seed. Seeds offered should be from home-grown crops. Please do not repackage common variety or commercially available seed. Purchased seed that is an extremely rare or interesting variety that you have grown & have extra seed to share is ok.

Seed Saving

Seeds should be harvested from healthy & disease-free plants. Make sure ripe seeds are completely dry before packaging. Moist seed will easily rot and destroy other seeds packaged with it. A good rule of thumb: dry seeds at least 2 weeks prior to packaging. Additional information on harvesting and drying seed can be found at <http://www.seedsavers.org/instructions.html>

Seed Viability

Before giving any seeds to a friend or stranger, it's good gardening etiquette to **test seeds** to make sure they are viable, that is, to make sure they will actually sprout! Place 10 of the seeds on a damp paper towel inside a resealable bag. Label the bag with the date. Check the bag a couple of days later to see if they have sprouted (note that some seeds take longer to germinate than others). If they sprout, they're swappable. Count how many have sprouted – add a zero, and this is your germination rate. Example: 7 out of 10 sprout = 70% germination rate. If less than 90%, please note this so others are aware. Please also advise of the **harvest date** of seeds (the **year** the seeds were collected) that you plan to offer.

Packaging Seeds

You may want to show some creativity when packaging seeds. Craft shops and dollar stores sell tiny, plastic, airtight bags that are perfect for storing seeds. Label these small seed bags with a permanent marker, or slip a small label inside the bag along with the seeds, providing the seed type and brief instructions for sowing. Office supply stores also sell small paper envelopes that can be sealed and are ideal for storing seeds. Add a logo or a business card to the seed packets to personalize the design.

When packaging, please provide the following information:

- name of the seed variety
- instructions for growing
- germination rate and/or harvest date

*IF YOU WILL BE OFFERING SEED, PLEASE RSVP SO WE KNOW HOW MANY TO PLAN FOR
THANK YOU!*