



Southern Exposure Seed Exchange

[www.southernexposure.com](http://www.southernexposure.com)

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Check out these seed saving resources on-line:

Free manuals at [www.savingourseeds.org/](http://www.savingourseeds.org/)

The Organic Seed Alliance [www.seedalliance.org/](http://www.seedalliance.org/)

The Seed Savers Exchange [www.exchange.seedsavers.org/](http://www.exchange.seedsavers.org/)

The Grassroots Seed Network [www.grassrootsseednetwork.org/](http://www.grassrootsseednetwork.org/)

## Wet Seed Saving for Home Use

*See reverse for dry seed saving*

Crop	Isolation Distance	Self / Cross	Min. Population		Seed lifespan, room temp	When and How to Harvest
			Long-term Maintenance	Improvement		
Eggplant	50 ft.	Self	10 plants	35 plants	3 years	Harvest after the fruits turn dull yellow. Cut into 1-2" cubes and cover with water for 24 hours at room temperature (stirring once midway). Use your hands to squish seeds out of the fruit. Let sit 12 hours more if seed is still difficult to remove. Rinse and spread in a thin layer to dry for 3 weeks.
Tomatoes, heirloom	20 ft.	Self	10 plants	35 plants	4 years	Harvest fruits when fully ripe and mash into a container with a loose fitting lid. Let sit at room temperature until bubbles stop forming (usually 36 hours), stirring every 12 hours. Pull off all remaining large hunks and rinse seeds. Spread into a thin layer and allow to dry for 3 weeks.
Tomatoes, modern	5 ft.					
Cucumber	300 ft.	Cross	20 plants	50 plants	3 years	Harvest fruits that have turned yellow or brown and allow them to cure at room temperature for 2 weeks or until any sign of mold sets in. Slice fruits and scoop out the seeds into a container. Add water till the mix is sloshy and let sit at room temperature for 2 days, stirring every 12 hours. Rinse seeds and spread into a thin layer and allow to dry for 3 weeks.
Squash, Zucchini, Pumpkins, Gourds, Cantaloupe	300 ft.	Cross	10 plants	45 plants	3 years	Allow the fruits to grow big and hard. Let sit at room temperature for one month to cure. Cut the fruit, scoop out the seeds, and rinse them, removing all the fleshy matter. Spread them into a thin layer to dry for 3 weeks. To more easily clean the seeds, we cover them with water for 24 hours (stir once after the first 12 hours) before rinsing and drying.
Watermelon	300 ft.	Cross	10 plants	45 plants	3 years	When fruits are fully ripe, scoop the guts out into a bucket and leave at room temperature for 2-3 days, stirring every 12 hours. Rinse seeds through a strainer and spread in a thin layer to dry for 3 weeks.

# Dry Seed Saving for Home Use

Crop	Isolation Distance	Self / Cross	Min. Population		Seed lifespan, room temp	When and How to Harvest
			Long-term Maintenance	Improvement		
Beans, String	10 ft.	Self	6 plants	30 plants	4 years	After pods have turned leathery & begun to turn brown, pick off pods and allow them to dry in a single layer out of direct sunlight until 1 week after the seeds rattle in the pods
Lettuce	5 ft.	Self	6 plants	40 Plants	2 years	EITHER 1.) When flowers are in "half feather" dig up the root ball and let the top sit on a tarp for 2 weeks. OR 2.) After plants have begun to "feather", knock seeds off into a bucket by vibrating plants.
Peas, Garden	10 ft.	Self	10 plants	60 plants	3 years	After pods have turned leathery and begun to turn brown, pick off the pods and allow them to dry in a single layer out of direct sunlight until 1 week after the seeds rattle in the pods.
Peas, Southern	10 ft.	Self	20 plants	70 plants	4 years	Pick the pods when the seeds rattle inside them and allow them to dry in a layer no more than half an inch thick for 2 weeks.
Peppers (can also be processed wet)	40 ft.	Self	10 plants	25 plants	2 years	After the fruits are completely ripe (in their last color phase), cut them open, scrape the seeds on to a paper plate in a single layer, and allow them to dry for 2 weeks.
Brassicas (radish, collards, cabbage, broccoli, kale, mustard, etc.)	300 ft.	Cross	75 plants	150 plants	3 years	Allow overwintered plants to bolt in spring and harvest the siliques (long slender seed pods) when they and the seeds inside them are brown. Allow them to dry in a layer no more then 1/4 inch thick for 2 weeks.
Corn	300 ft.	Cross	250 plants	1000 plants	4 years	Harvest ears after they are dry and allow them to dry in the shucks in a single layer for two weeks.
Spinach	300 ft.	Cross	75 plants	150 plants	2 years	Allow plants to bolt. They will segregate into male and female plants. Harvest the seed from the female plants when they are brown and allow them to dry in a single layer for 2 weeks.
Beets and Chard	300 ft.	Cross	75 plants	150 plants	3 years	Harvest beets as normal in fall and store over winter in a root cellar. Replant the best ones without the tops in March. Chard may be simply overwintered. Harvest the seeds in late spring when brown and allow to dry in a single layer for 2 weeks.
Carrots	300 ft.	Cross			2 years	Not for beginners in the southeast as they will cross with wild Queen Anne's Lace for a half mile.
Leeks	300 ft.	Cross	50 plants	150 plants	1 year	Overwinter and allow to flower. Harvest seeds when they are brown and allow them to dry in a single layer for 2 weeks.
Parsley	300 ft.	Cross	50 plants	150 plants	1 year	Overwinter and allow to flower. Harvest seeds when they are brown and allow them to dry in a single layer for 2 weeks.
Annual Flowers	40 ft.	Self	30 plants	75 plants	varies	Let flowers dry on the plant. When seeds look like the ones that were initially planted, spread them out to dry for 2 weeks in a thin layer.