



How You Can Help

Get Involved!

The Flossmoor Seed Library is a community resource that is run solely by volunteers. You can help in a number of ways.

- ◆ Let your friends and neighbors know about the seed library and encourage them to support it.
- ◆ Think about donating. First and foremost, donate your seeds. Having a robust supply of seed is crucial to sustaining the seed library. Donations can also be in the form of materials, such as seed envelopes.
- ◆ Volunteer your services to help organize and maintain the seed library or assist in seed library related programming.

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Carrie Malfeo, cmalfeo@gmail.com.



Flossmoor Public Library
1000 Sterling Avenue
Flossmoor, IL 60422
(708) 798-3600
Flossmoorlibrary.org

Hours
Mondays—Thursdays
9:30 a.m.—5 p.m.
Fridays & Saturday
9:30 a.m.—5 p.m.
Sundays
1—5 p.m.

Flossmoor Seed Library



*If you have a garden
 and a library you have
 everything you need.*

~ Marcus Tullius Cicero

**Sponsored by the Flossmoor
 Green Commission and the
 Flossmoor Public Library**

What is a Seed Library?

The practice of seed saving and sharing goes back thousands of years and is essential for a healthy and sustainable food future. The mission of the Flossmoor Seed Library is to preserve food crop heritage for future generations by collecting, growing, and sharing heirloom seeds and plants that are adapted to thrive in the soil and climate of our region.

The seed library is a community-based resource located at the Flossmoor Public Library which serves as a convenient access point for seed sharing season to season. All are welcome to participate, veteran and beginner gardeners alike.



Getting started is easy. Just visit the Flossmoor library and the seed “card catalog” where the seeds are stored. “Borrow”

any of the vegetable, herb or flower seeds, plant them and at harvest time allow some of the plants to go to seed. Then return some of the seeds to the library to ensure a continuous collection of seeds for future sharing.

A variety of books and other materials are available to help you decide what seeds you should plant and how to plant, collect and store your seeds.

Six Tips for Saving Seed

1. Know your seed. Don't save seeds from a hybrid variety (often labeled as “F1” in catalogs or seed packets).

2. Save Information, not just seed. Keep good records from the start. The information you pass on is as important as the seed. Make note of common and Latin names; dates of planting, plant maturity, and seed harvest; whether off-types were culled; population size and isolation distance; and any other important observations about the variety.

3. Watch for cross-pollination. Different varieties of crops of the same species can cross-pollinate, producing different characteristics than the original variety. To keep a variety “pure”, you should plant in isolation to minimize the chance of crossing. Crops that are wind or insect pollinated (often called “outcrossers”) require a greater isolation distance from other varieties of the same species than those that have flowers that self-pollinate (often called “selfers”).

4. Consider plant population – **numbers count.** To maintain the genetic integrity of a variety, it's important to save seed from a diverse population of individual plants. The optimum population size differs depending on whether a variety is wind or insect pollinated, or self-pollinated.

5. Choose ideal plants for ideal seed. Healthy, vigorous plants are more likely to produce healthy, vigorous seed. Save seeds from disease-free plants to help prevent seed-borne disease. Also, collect seeds from plants that show ideal characteristics (shape, color, dates to maturity) that match the variety's description.

6. Make it last. Good storage practices will increase the long-term viability of your seed. Store only seed that has been checked for pests and is fully mature and dry. The storage area should be dark, dry, cool, and protected from pests.

*Source: Seed Savers Exchange
seedsavers.org*