

## GLOSSARY

**Open-Pollinated:** Non-hybrid plants that will grow true to type if the seed is saved in the correct manner. Their genetic qualities have remained stable over many generations. Only open-pollinated seed can be donated to the Seed Sharing Library.

**Hybrid:** A plant that is the result of an intentional, controlled cross between two stable, inbred lines. The term "F1" or "Hybrid" will usually be on the tag or seed packet. Seed saved from hybrid plants will not grow true to type and cannot be donated to the Seed Sharing Library.

**Self-Pollinated:** Perfect flowers contain both male and female parts that are fertile (aka "selfers") and are the easiest plants from which to save seeds. Examples are Tomatoes, Beans, Peas, Eggplants, Peppers, Okra, and Lettuce.

**Cross-Pollination:** Pollen from one flower fertilizes a flower on another plant, usually carried by bees or wind (aka "crossers") Extra care must be taken when saving seeds from crossers, and they would be considered Intermediate for seed savers. Examples are Squash, Melons, Cucumbers, Broccoli, Corn, and Spinach.

**Biennial:** Produces vegetative growth the first season and flowers in the second season. Examples are Cabbage, Brussels Sprouts, Kale, Beets, Carrots, Celery, Onions, and Parsnips. They can also be crossers, so these are considered Advanced level for seed savers.

**Heirloom:** Term generally used to describe a non-commercial, open-pollinated variety kept by families, farmers, or ethnic groups over many generations

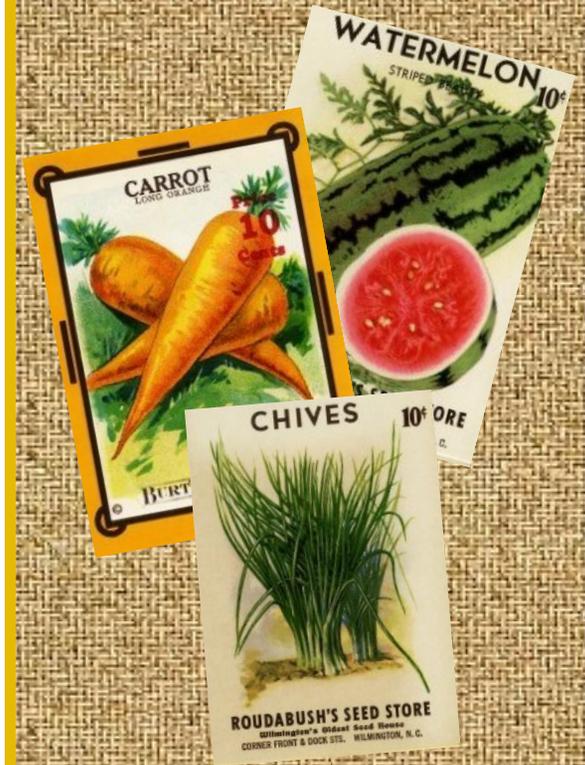
## WHY HOUSE A COMMUNITY-SUSTAINED SEED COLLECTION AT OUR LIBRARY?

- ☀ To introduce members of our community to gardening.
- ☀ To provide a place where seed savers can share their seeds.
- ☀ To connect our community to the traditions of growing tasty, healthy food.
- ☀ To educate our community about growing, harvesting, and saving seeds.
- ☀ To nurture a culture of sharing, sustainability, and abundance in our community



27005 S. Milford Road • South Lyon, MI 48178  
www.lyon.lib.mi.us • (248) 437-8800  
Monday-Thursday 10:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Friday-Saturday Noon - 5:00 pm  
Sunday Noon - 4:00  
(Labor Day thru Memorial Day)

# Welcome to LTPL's Seed Sharing Library



# Lyon Township Public Library *Seed Sharing Library*

The LTPL Seed Sharing Library is a free program that lends seeds and encourages borrowers to return some seeds from their harvests to make the seed library self-sustaining. We are using our former card catalog to house and organize the seed collection.

The practice of saving seeds has been around for more than 12,000 years. Today, seed saving helps us develop stronger seeds that are better adapted to our climate. It also saves us money! Because seed saving is part of our American heritage, it is one way we can come together as a community. At LTPL we feel that the Seed Sharing Library will benefit gardeners of all experience levels by providing a place where they can learn about gardening, share seeds, and become more sustainable.

The success of our seed collection depends on seed contributions. When you borrow from the LTPL Seed Sharing Library you are making a commitment to try and return some seeds at the end of the growing season. However, if for some reason you are unable to return seeds to the library you will not be penalized.



## Steps to Successful Seed Saving and Sharing

### STEP 1: LEARNING ABOUT GARDENING AND SAVING SEEDS

We want you to be successful in your gardening experience, and LTPL has a good selection of books and DVDs about all aspects of gardening, including seed saving. Information sheets are available at the Seed Sharing Library and on the LTPL website. LTPL will also support the Seed Sharing Library with seasonal programs on gardening, starting seeds, saving seeds, and preserving your harvest.

### STEP 2: CHOOSING SEEDS

For successful seed saving and sharing, the varieties chosen for seed saving must be “open-pollinated” or non-hybrid. Seeds saved from hybrid plants will not be true to type and the offspring could have traits that don’t resemble the plant from which you gathered them. Our Seed Sharing Library categorizes seeds alphabetically by type and color codes them according to how challenging it is to save seed for that type of plant. Easy seeds will have a green dot, Intermediate will have an orange dot, and Advanced will have a pink dot. Easy seeds are from plants that will set seeds in one season and are not likely to cross pollinate. You merely need to allow them to ripen before they are harvested and cleaned. Intermediate and advanced seeds need extra steps such as being isolated to avoid cross-pollination or overwintering before they produce seed (biennials). Advanced

seed-saving skills are fun to learn, and it is recommended that beginning seed savers master saving the easy seeds before moving on in to the more advanced seed saving methods.

### STEP 3: SAVING SEEDS

Harvest and enjoy your vegetables and flowers, and remember to allow some of your plant to flower, set seeds, and ripen. Save seeds from plants that exhibit desirable qualities such as vigor, earliness, good taste, and disease resistance. Save some seeds for yourself for next year’s crop, and set aside some seeds to return to the Seed Sharing Library. Instructions for cleaning and storing various types of seeds are available at the Seed Sharing Library at LTPL and on the LTPL website. [www.lyon.lib.mi.us](http://www.lyon.lib.mi.us)

### STEP 4: SHARING SEEDS

Bring your clean, dry seeds to the library in an envelope, bag, or jar. Please use recycled containers if possible. Fill out a seed sharing form (available at the library and on the website) for each variety of seed you are sharing and tape or staple it to the container. Place your container in the seed drop-off box. The seeds will be packaged, labeled, and filed in the Seed Sharing Library by a volunteer.