



SEED SAVING

Seed saving is an important part of Loving Garland Green's Another Urban Garden program. We ask that all participants in this program pledge to save some seeds from the plants they grow to share in the fall with other Urban Farmers here in Garland.

Why save seeds?

To grow even stronger plants next year!

Simply save seeds from all the plants which do well in your own garden each year, and your seed collection will begin to adapt to your local conditions and gardening habits. Plants from seeds successfully grown in Garland are much more likely to be successful in your garden than seeds from plants grown hundreds of miles away.

You can save your own seeds for free. And you can save as many seeds as you like. You can easily save enough seeds to have plenty for sharing with friends and other gardeners in local or online seed exchanges. Trading with friends can greatly increase the number of different varieties you can enjoy—without spending a cent!

You will help preserve crop diversity

During the 1900's we experienced a startling drop in the number of heirloom varieties—because gardeners stopped saving and trading their own seeds. When we rely on commercial seed companies, any seeds that sell slowly simply get dropped from production and disappear.

This loss of varieties translates into lower genetic variability in our food plants. Lower variability means lower adaptability to stresses such as disease or climate change. Each time a seed variety is lost, we lose another chance to feed ourselves in a world of changing climate and shrinking resources.

And finally, the best reason of all: Seed saving is fun!

Few things give gardeners more satisfaction than planting a seed from last year's crop because they know the chances of it growing into an edible plant are very good. Additionally, it's fun to share your seeds with friends. It's an opportunity to brag about your past successes.

Expect more to come from members of Loving Garland Green on the topic of seed saving as we move toward harvest time.