



Vaughan Grows

Seed Library

What is a seed library?

A seed library is a non-profit lending library that lends heirloom seeds at no financial cost, and accepts saved seed for the enjoyment of all in the community.

Why save seeds?

Humans have been saving seeds for over 12,000 years. Sadly, in our culture much of the knowledge about seed saving has been lost over the last hundred years, along with significant biodiversity. When you grow and save your own seeds, you:

- Develop seed stock that is well suited to our climate
- Save money
- Mitigate our dependence on agro-business
- Create a culture of abundance and sharing
- Help ensure biodiversity is cultivated and maintained

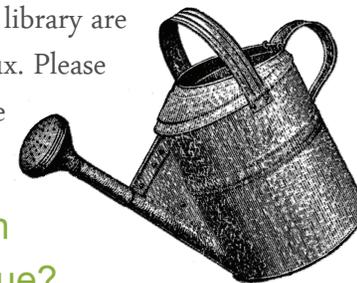
How do I properly save seeds?

The Vaughan Grows Seed Library will provide instructions on how to save seeds. The methods for saving seeds will depend on the variety of plant. Some seeds are quite easy to save. In these seeds there is little risk of cross pollination, so when you

plant seeds next year you'll get the same fruits or vegetables that you got last year. These seeds also require fewer steps to successfully save seeds. Some seeds, like those in the squash and pumpkin family require a bit more work to successfully save. These seeds easily cross pollinate and require to being a certain distance apart and may need to be hand pollinated.

What seeds do you have?

The contents of the seed library are in a continual state of flux. Please visit the library to choose available seed.



Can I find seeds in the library catalogue?

No. The Vaughan Grows Seed Library is located in Pierre Berton Resource Library, but it is not a part of the Vaughan Public Library collection. You are not able to search for seeds in the library catalogue, or place holds on seeds as you would traditional library materials.

How many can I check out?

The suggested limit is 9-12 seeds of six varieties per member per season. For every plant you intend to grow, please take no

more than 3 seeds. Please be responsible in your borrowing; only borrow seeds you intend to plant, grow and save/return, and be conscious of the fact that you are now part of a community of gardeners.

Are seeds available all year?

As long as there is seed available, it will be available year round, though not all seed can be planted year round.

Are all the seeds organic?

The seeds initially provided at the Vaughan Grows Seed Library were purchased and/or donated from a vendor that is certified organic. The Vaughan Grows Seed Library encourages that those donating seeds practice organic growing methods and to be honest when providing information on their seed donations. There is no guarantee that the seeds donated by community members are organic.

When do I return the seed?

At harvest time, please take some extra steps to save seeds for others. We ask that a portion of the seeds you save from the strongest, tastiest, and most vigorous plants be returned to the Seed Library to keep the library self-sustaining. The

seeds may be returned at any time that you have completed the seed saving process. Please make sure seed you are returning is clearly marked with the name and variety, year of harvest, and any other relevant information.

What if I can't return seeds?

The Vaughan Grows Seed Library hopes that you will bring back to the library a small portion of whatever seed you are able to save. You will not be penalized if you are not able to return seed. Please inform the library of the reasons you were not able to save and return seed, e.g., pests or disease.

Do I have to bring back the same type of seeds?

Ideally, yes you will bring back the same type of seeds that you checked out. However, many factors may affect whether the seeds you checked out will grow and produce seeds. Also, if you have checked out seeds that are more difficult to save seeds from and did not follow all of the instructions on how to save seeds, it is best that you do not bring those seeds back to the library because they may have cross pollinated and not produce a plant with the same traits next year.

You are welcome to bring back seeds from additional varieties, as long as they are heirloom and correctly saved.

Can I donate my own seeds?

Yes, you can donate your own seeds. You will need to make sure you are saving seeds from an heirloom variety of plant, rather than a hybrid plant. While hybrid plants may produce well in the first season, they are not able to reproduce the same results the following year. Follow the instructions for seed saving that are through this program, resources available at the library, or from the Internet.

Interested in volunteering?

Please call us at 905 653 7323 ext 4341.

Vaughan Grows Seed Library
Pierre Berton Resource Library
2nd Floor Information Desk
4921 Rutherford Road
Woodbridge, Ontario L4L 1A6
905 653 7323 ext. 4341
