

Seed Saving From Your Garden

Resources

- Extension Publications
 - [Saving Seeds from your Garden](#) (Iowa State University)
 - [How to Harvest and Store Seeds](#) (Iowa State University)
 - [Seed Saving Basics](#) (Pennsylvania State University)
 - [Seed Saving Basics](#) (University of Florida)
 - [An Introduction to Seed Saving for the Home Gardener](#) (University of Maine)
 - [Saving Vegetable Seeds](#) (University of Minnesota)
 - [Vegetable Seed Saving for Home Gardeners and Small-scale Farmers](#) (New Mexico State University)
 - [Collecting and Storing Seeds from Your Garden](#) (Utah State University)
- Websites
 - [Seed Savers Exchange](#)
 - [Community Seed Network](#)
- Book
 - *The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Seed Saving* by Lee Buttala, Shanyn Siegel, Jared Zystro, and Micaela Colley



Horticulture
Program Focus Team

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
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Getting Started: Seed Libraries

Please share any additional information, resources, sites or contacts that could be added to this list that you recommend for other K-State Research and Extension Agents, volunteers and groups in Kansas interested in starting or partnering with a seed library. This list was compiled for information sharing purposes and not considered comprehensive.

Thank you, Kansas Extension Master Gardener Program, mastergardener@ksu.edu

Kansas Seed Libraries

[Erie City Library](#)

Neosho County/Southwind

204 South Butler, Erie KS

620-244-5119

Contact: Julie Coover-Kent, Director

[We Share Program](#)

[Erie City Library Facebook](#)

[Lawrence Public Library](#)

Douglas County

707 Vermont St., Lawrence KS

785-843-3833

[Goessel Public Library](#)

Marion County/Chisholm Trail

101 S. Cedar St., Goessel KS

620-367-8111

[Newton Public Library](#)

Harvey County

720 Oak St., Newton KS

316-283-2890

[KC Library Ruiz Branch](#)

2017 W. Pennway St., KCMO

816-701-3487

[Linwood Community Library](#)

Leavenworth County

19649 Linwood Rd., Linwood KS

913-301-3686

[KC Seed Savers at Anita B Gorman Discovery Center](#)

4750 Troost Ave., KCMO

816-759-7300

[KC Seed Savers Facebook](#)

Out of State Examples & Resources

[Seed Libraries Organization](#)

Seed Libraries is a network of seed lending libraries. Seed lending libraries can vary from community to community, but the basic idea is that seeds are made available to the community for free or low cost.

- [Start a Library](#)
- [Webinar](#)
- [2023 Recordings and Presentations from Annual Seed Summit](#)

[Richmond Grows Seed Lending Library: Create A Library](#)

[Binghamton University Seed Library](#)

[Kenan Science Library Makerspace: Seed Library](#)

[Seed Saving Resources](#)

[How to Start Your Own Seed Library](#)

[How to Make a Little Seed Library](#)

[Seed Libraries: What They Are & How to Start One](#)

[Seed Libraries Research Guide](#)

Getting Started Tips

Courtesy of Mikaela Boley, State Master Gardener Coordinator, Maryland mboley@umd.edu or 410-822-1244.

- Must have a reliable volunteer (preferably more than 1), as well as full support of wherever you locate the seed source. Our local library staff are incredibly supportive and communicate very well with us, especially since one of our MG's sits on the board.
- We have had less success with getting individuals to donate seeds BACK to the library at the end of the season; we rely mostly on donated seeds from commercial sources. We do have some dedicated participants that donate, but the variety is sporadic.
- We also partner with the library to provide classes that help market the seed library and assist individuals in using it effectively (like Garden Planning, Seed Saving, Plants for Pollinators, etc.).

- Facebook has been instrumental in advertising and communicating - we do not have the funds for an actual webpage, but that would also be a great resource for participants.
- Check your state seed laws; in MD, seed libraries are exempt from laws pertaining to seed quality. We use some verbiage to make clear that we are not a commercial operation, do not accept monetary compensation, and seed quality is subjective. OSU has a nice webinar on seed law: <https://u.osu.edu/beelab/david-francis-recording-resources/>
- We have also written and received several grants to help supply the seed library to keep up with demand, which has been nice. Several commercial seed sources offer a steep discount for MG or Extension program purchases (plus tax exempt).
- Resources are lacking in the practical application of actually saving the seeds and planting a "seed garden" early in the season.