Randolph Township Free Public Library
Seed Library Guidelines

Introduction

The Randolph Library is delighted to introduce the Seed Library, a community resource designed to inspire gardeners of all ages and skill levels. This initiative offers an opportunity to engage with local biodiversity, share gardening wisdom, and cultivate a greener future together.

Disclaimer: The library is not responsible for the success, germination rates, or performance of any seeds distributed through the Seed Library. All seeds are offered as-is, and outcomes may vary depending on growing conditions and seed viability.

Seed Library Guidelines

Participating in the Seed Exchange

- Take Seeds as Needed: Community members are welcome to take seeds from the library, whether for a backyard plot, container garden, classroom project, or public space. Please be mindful of others; only take what you need for your immediate planting plans.
- No Obligation to Contribute Immediately: You do not need to donate seeds in order to participate. If you are new to gardening or do not have seeds to share, feel free to take seeds to get started. We hope that, over time, you may be able to contribute back to the library as your gardening journey progresses.

Contributing to the Seed Library

We encourage donations from home gardeners, local growers, and organizations. Contributing seeds helps keep the library well-stocked and diverse, and sharing seeds is an act of generosity that embodies the spirit of our community.

- New, Unopened Seed Packets: Commercially packaged seeds that remain unopened are ideal for contribution. These typically come with all necessary labeling regarding plant type, variety, year, and cultivation instructions.
- Opened but Labeled Seed Packets: If you have partially used commercial seed packets, please ensure they are clearly labeled. Include the plant name, cultivar/variety, year of packaging, and any relevant growing instructions. Secure the packet to avoid spillage and preserve seed viability.

- Harvested Seeds: Home-harvested seeds are a valuable addition, especially for local varieties and heirlooms. Please provide thorough labeling and essential information.
- Place harvested seeds in the small envelopes available at the Library. Ensure seeds are clean, dry, and free from mold or pests.

Labeling and Documentation

Proper labeling is essential for the success of the Seed Library. Each seed packet should contain, at minimum:

- Common and scientific name of the plant
- Variety or cultivar (if known)
- Year seeds were harvested or packaged
- Location grown or source
- Any notable characteristics (e.g., color, size, bloom time, flavor)
- Growing instructions—sunlight, soil, watering, spacing, germination tips

Seed Quality and Viability

- Donate only healthy, viable seeds. Avoid contributing seeds from plants that suffered from fungal, bacterial, or viral diseases.
- Ensure seeds are fully mature before harvesting. Immature seeds may not germinate reliably.
- Clean and dry seeds thoroughly before packaging. Moisture can lead to mold and reduce shelf life.
- If possible, test a small batch of harvested seeds for germination before donating.

What Seeds To Donate

- All types of seeds are welcome: vegetables, herbs, flowers, native plants, and heirlooms.
- Local and regionally adapted varieties are especially valuable, as they support biodiversity and resilience.
- Please do not donate invasive species or seeds prohibited by state or federal regulations.

Seed Donation

Please fill out when donating seeds
& leave at Circulation Desk

Common Plant Name _____

Scientific Plant Name _____

*Location & Year Harvested _____

Heirloom? (Y or N) _____ Organic? (Y or N) _____

Notes _____

_____

Your Name _____

Phone/Email _____

*Required