

How to Save Seeds

Open-pollinated seeds are the offspring of two plants of the same variety crossed naturally without the interference of man, and seed saving is an important means of preserving such plants. **Heirloom seeds** are open-pollinated seeds that are more than 50 years old. Unlike hybrid seeds, which are intentionally crossbred and do not produce plants like their “parent plants,” heirloom varieties have been grown for many generations, and their physical and genetic qualities are relatively stable. Heirloom seeds will be true to type if saved—you will reap what you sow.

Seed harvesting techniques fall into two main categories according to whether the fruits and seeds are dry or wet when mature.

Dry Collecting

Seeds that grow on the outside of a plant (such as beans and dill) usually can be harvested through the dry method. This is the simplest way of collecting seeds:

- ☞ Let seeds mature completely on the plant
- ☞ Collect them

Wet Processing

Seeds that grow on the inside of a fruit or vegetable (such as tomatoes) will need to be harvested using a wet technique:

- ☞ Allow the plant’s fruit to mature completely on the plant
- ☞ Harvest the fruit, then remove the seeds and, if possible, any flesh that is attached
- ☞ Place seeds in a glass jar and cover them with room-temperature water
- ☞ Allow them to sit undisturbed in a dark place for 3 to 5 days
- ☞ Remove any scum, debris, or seeds that are floating on top
- ☞ Pour off remaining water using a fine sieve to catch the seeds
- ☞ Rinse seeds in room-temperature water followed by hydrogen peroxide
- ☞ Pat seeds dry between paper towels and allow them to air dry

Helpful Links

www.nchcpl.org/seeds

Visit our website for information about seed-saving, how you can volunteer, and helpful gardening information.

www.hoosiergardener.com

Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp is considered the foremost authority on gardening in Indiana. On her site, she provides “an informed, yet personal take on natural gardening in Indiana and other dirty topics.”

www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/garden_pubs.html

This link from the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture provides articles about everything from houseplants to landscape management.

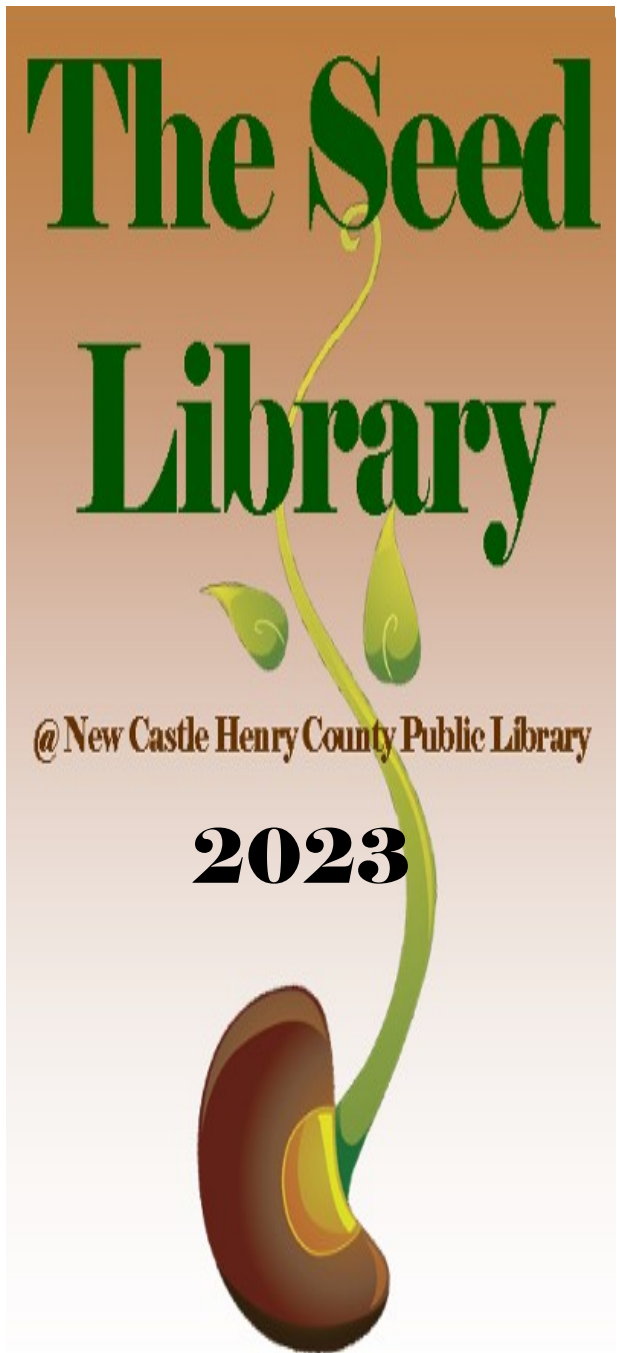
Our Mission

The mission of The Seed Library @ New Castle-Henry County Public Library is to foster a healthy community and sustainability by providing a seed library that supports the longevity and integrity of heirloom seeds.



NEW CASTLE • HENRY COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

376 South 15th Street ♦ New Castle, IN
(765) 529-0362
www.nchcpl.org/seeds



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PUBLIC LIBRARY

How it works:



Location/Hours

The Seed Library is located near the Indiana Room on the upper level of the library. It will be available to patrons during the library's regular hours throughout the months of February-October.



*in Partnership with the
Hancock County Master
Gardeners*

*These are in-person & virtual
programs.
Registration requested.*

*Sign up for the
Google Meet
Code at:*

nchcpl.librarycalendar.com

January 23 : Winter Sowing, 6:30pm

Master Gardeners Rosemary and Connie show us how to winter sow our own native and perennial seeds. Milk jugs, duct tape, soil, and seeds provided.

April 24: Pricking out Seeds, 6:30pm

Master Gardeners Rosemary and Connie help you prick out plants that have been winter sown.

May 22: Intro to Companion Gardening 6:30pm

Hancock County Master Gardener Janet Ridenour introduces the concept of companion gardening, and advises which container plants work best together.

September 25: Planting Native Companions for Meadows 6:30pm

Dr. Helen Steussy shares which plants work well together for meadows.

October 23: Holiday Wreaths, 6:30pm

Master Gardeners Rosemary and Connie show us how to create our own wreaths and evergreen ropes using items found in your yard!

Donors

**Friends of the Library
Rural King**