

Mission Statement

The Seed Library of Kent Free Library will encourage the tradition of seed saving, nurture locally-adapted plant varieties, and foster a community culture of sharing. The Seed Library will focus on the following two activities:

- Establishing, growing, and curating a depository of seeds available to all Portage Library Consortia card holders at no cost.
- Providing information, instruction, and education about sustainable gardening.

Volunteering

The Library is assisted in its seed saving program by community members!

The success of the Seed Library is dependent on community members growing plants and donating seeds each year. Donations are accepted starting in September of each year through the end of January of the next year.

Volunteers are needed for sorting and packaging seeds at the annual Seed Packaging Party each year in February. For information about volunteering, please email kflinfo@kentfreelibrary.org.

Information about Seed Saving

Books

The Cleveland Seed Bank Seed Saving Guide. LH 631.521 C599 1015

The Complete Idiot's Guide To Seed Saving and Starting by Richerson. 631.521 R399c 2012

The Manual of Seed Saving: Harvesting, Storing, and Sowing Techniques for Vegetables, Herbs, and Fruits by Heisteringer. 635 H365m 2013

Saving Seeds: A Home Gardener's Guide to Preserving Plant Biodiversity by Jason. 631.521 J311s 2020

Websites

www.seedsavers.org
www.seedalliance.org

Help

Have plant disease or pest diagnostic questions? Call the OSU Agricultural Extension Office: (330) 235-7114

Drop off plant and insect samples in person on Wednesdays, April through October at the Portage County Extension Office 705 Oakwood Street, Suite 103, Ravenna, OH



Donation Form

To be accepted, seeds must be:

- Grown by the donor in 2025
- From open-pollinated, non-genetically modified, non-hybrid and/or heirloom plants that are not listed as invasive species
- Completely dry, free from any debris, and in a clear sealed plastic bag

The Library reserves the right to refuse or to dispose of donated seeds that do not meet these criteria.

Common Name of Plant:

Variety:

Location Grown:

Date Harvested:

Donor Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

On the back, please share any notes pertinent to the seeds (eg., where you got them, a description of uncommon varieties, etc.) or anything that other growers might need to know about the plant.

The practice of saving seeds has been around for more than 12,000 years. Through the Seed Library, The Kent Free Library hopes to encourage the tradition of seed saving, nurture locally-adapted plant varieties, and foster a community culture of sharing.

Donating Seeds

Community members are invited to donate seeds harvested from vegetables, herbs, and flowers that they grow. Seeds must be from open-pollinated, non-genetically modified, non-hybrid and/or heirloom plants that are not listed as invasive species by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Kent Free Library reserves the right to refuse or to dispose of donated seeds that do not meet these criteria.



Once you've harvested and dried your seeds, bring them to the Information Desk in a sealed plastic bag along with the Donation Form.

Choosing Seeds

Donated seeds will be sorted, packaged, and labeled by library staff and volunteers. Packets will contain an appropriate quantity of seeds for a typical backyard garden (about a 10' row).

The seed packets are stored in a card catalog near the Information Desk, organized by common name and variety.

To select seeds, browse the drawers or the Growing Guide located on the Seed Library or on the library's website.

Borrowing Seeds

You may check out up to twenty (20) seed packets per year, including no more than two (2) packets of any one variety. This limit is subject to change as the Seed Library expands.

Complete a Check Out form to help us with statistics.

Returning Seeds

If you're a beginner gardener, don't worry about saving seeds at first. Focus first on having fun and learning how to garden--the seed saving part will come later.

Experienced savers are encouraged to return a portion of seeds from their harvest.

Follow all guidelines for isolation to prevent crosspollination. Collect seeds from your healthiest crops.

Donate about enough seeds for 5-30 packets (a packet contains enough seeds for a 10' row). Donations accepted September–January.

Seeds should be saved according to best practices. Seeds should not be returned to the library unless the grower knows how to properly grow and save them.