

General Guidelines to Seed Saving

When choosing which seeds to harvest, consider the following:

- Vigor
- Taste
- Size
- Ability to tolerate drought, wind or other extreme conditions
- Ability to compete with weeds
- Early-, mid- or late-bearing fruit (whichever is desired)
- Long storage life
- Late to go to seed or bolt
- Good fruit texture
- Disease resistance
- Productivity
- Cold hardiness
- Resistance to insect pests
- Larger fruit or flowers
- Attractiveness
- Color
- Shape

After you save the seeds, make a note of why you chose those particular seeds, where you grew them, and when you harvested them. This process will help you to learn from your plants and to start creating the varieties that work best for your location.

The above information is from the Richmond Grows Seed Lending Library
<http://www.richmondgrowsseeds.org/guidelines-for-saving-seeds.html>

Seed Protocol:

1. Save from healthy plants. Even if a disease does not get passed on through the seed, we do like to have some selection for disease resistance by only saving from healthy, strong plants.
2. Save from a number of plants so that the seed has some genetic diversity in it. The quantity that is optimum depends on the type of plant, for self-pollinating plants a minimum of 6 plants is optimal, for cross-pollinating you want to save from much a larger population.
3. If the plant cross pollinates you want to make sure you keep it isolated so it stays “true to type.”

Check with a seed saving chart or book to get isolation distances.

4. When you bring seed to share at the Seed Lending Library please label with as much information as you can.
5. We all save seed from a favorite that might not be from a number of plants or isn't super healthy, or maybe we like some interesting crosses. You are welcome to bring those seeds; just make sure you write that down on the label so others know they are participating in your experiment.

The Seed Protocol is from the [West County Community Seed Exchange](#), Sonoma Co., California.