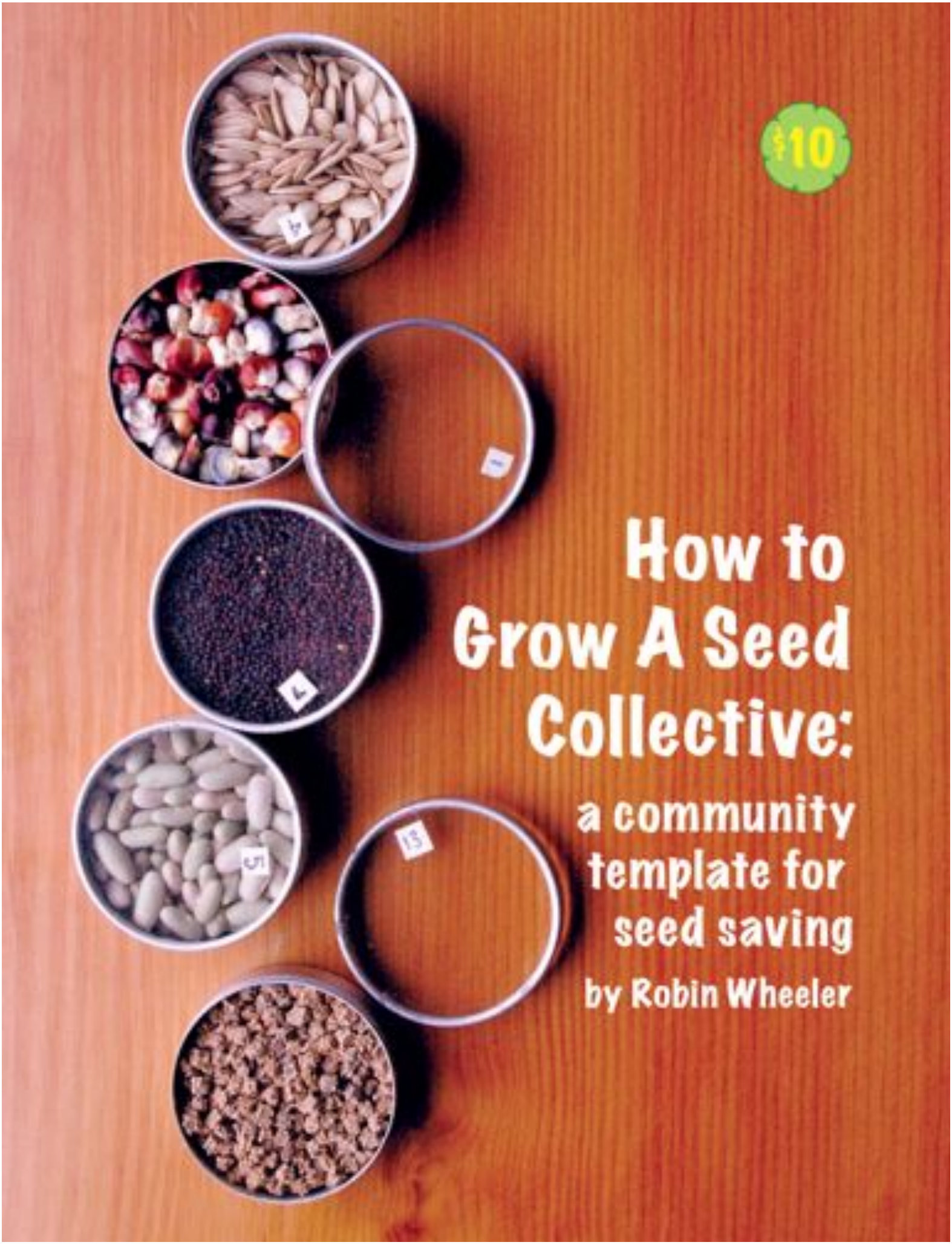
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How to Grow A Seed Collective:
a community template for seed saving
by Robin Wheeler

Acknowledgements

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www.ediblelandscapes.ca

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How to Grow a Seed Collective

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By Robin Wheeler
Funded by FarmFolkCityFolk

Introduction

The growing power of seed multinationals (with their worrisome use of Genetically Modified products and seed patenting), coupled with greater international financial distress has made community seed saving more important than ever. Readily accessible, locally appropriate supplies of varied seed are important to communities and will be even more so in the near future. Hopefully, instead of being held for an emergency, these seed collections will become a vital part of ongoing community life. Many of us are seeing the importance of greater local food production and distribution, and seeds are at the base of that action. Having a seed collection ready for use is as important as having a fire station or an earthquake coordinator.

Many communities already have casual systems in place. Joe down the street always has orca bean seeds, and Denise up the highway is guaranteed to be growing her famous corn and beets. Many communities now host a Seedy Saturday, and some areas have a Farmers Institute. However, it will be beneficial to add more layers to these casual systems, so that tangible results can quickly be utilized if needed, so that the community has resources at hand and ready to go—that is the goal. But reaching that goal means that several people in a community have their hands on the reins and are heading in a very particular direction.

It is to that end that this template has been designed. The goal is to assist communities in creating maps and databases of existing seed growers, keep track of seed, and to have education near at hand for new folks or eager growers. The template has been broken into categories that cover seed saving basics to ensure quality collections; seed storage and distribution systems—both on paper and computer records; plus a list of resources. Communities may choose only the sections that they feel are needed, adapt ideas for their own use, or may wish to begin utilizing all sections of the collective on top of their existing activities. As well, we have included an information page for commercial growers so that the whole system can grow.

First Things First: How to Grow a Collective

One or more people may want to begin structuring a seed collective in your town. They will likely decide to meet to analyze specific needs for their community. Gardening Clubs, Seedy Saturday organizers, Farmers Institute members and Farmers Markets can all be scouted for interested participants. It is important that a basis of unity be written down so that future misunderstandings can be reduced. We're not advocating a full scale Strategic Plan—that would probably just extinguish the desire to get going. We do however recommend getting some broad statements down about why you're doing this, what you want to accomplish and how you plan to do it. It might look something like this:

1) Vision–(the Grand Dream)
   e.g: "a healthy, safe food-seed supply for our community".
2) Mission–(why we exist and who we serve in 1-3 short points)
   e.g."to ensure that local seed is available to people of all economic backgrounds".
3) S.M.A.R.T.E.R. goals–*Specific*, *Measurable*, *Achievable*, *Realistic*, *Timely*, *Extending* and *Rewarding*. They identify what the job is, who will do it, how they will do it, what

resources they need, and when it will be finished. A one to three year plan can thus be mapped out with regular check-ins and adjustments scheduled at least annually.

Working effectively in a collective relies on good communication skills. Cathleen Kneen outlined a basic recipe for getting things done in a group in an article in *The Ram's Horn* magazine.

There are essentially four positions on any proposition:

1) I think this is great, let's do it.

2) it's not a bad idea, do it if you like

3) I don't think much of the idea but I won't stop you if you want to go ahead

4) I think this is absolutely wrong

If any one person in the group takes position 4—I think this is wrong—we have not reached consensus.

(Of course, if one person consistently and repeatedly takes this position, we have probably reached a consensus that they are in the wrong organization.)

We have also not reached consensus unless the majority of the group takes position 1 and positively supports the proposal. Otherwise, realistically, it won't happen anyway.

A charter like the one written by Denise Lagasse and Robin Wheeler for the Sunshine Coast Seed Collective can do much to reduce friction and wasted time later on—people coming on board know the agenda at a glance.

Sunshine Coast Seed Collective Charter

- To ensure the availability of ready, local seed to our community
- To develop locally adapted seeds that thrive best in relation to our climate, diseases and pests
- To protect a wide range of genetic plant diversity
- To ensure that local seed is available to people of all economic backgrounds
- To educate community on best practices for seed saving
- To create truly sustainable community by enabling complete food cycles
- To hand our seeds to the upcoming generations
- To celebrate the green gifts of the earth

Charters may be detailed (for instance, they may specify that all seed be donated and not sold, or must be grown organically) but should be broad enough in range so that slight shifts in activity can be accepted. Charters can do much to reduce friction and wasted time later on people coming on board know the agenda at a glance

Deciding on goals for our community was easy. We are many small pockets of neighbours strung out over a very long piece of highway. We may know what is happening next door, but not up in the next town. We decided that a paper database was important so that we had seed donors all marked down safely in a binder. That way, we could find them by last name or community, and add pages as we went. We could take this resource to events and meetings. We also decided that we wanted some seeds available to our community at all times not just on Seedy Saturday. And we needed someone to hold samples of bulk seeds in a cool, secure place for those of us who didn't have a likely spot (those without electricity for instance). We figured that we also wanted more in the way of ongoing education to bring more people up to speed on good seed saving practices.

How many volunteers will it take to make a successful seed collective?

It may be possible for a well organized person of passion in a small town to keep a collective running for a while, but this would be too fragile a situation to count on—any life emergency could make them suddenly out of reach and it would be very difficult to pick up the pieces and carry on. Sustainability and resiliency rely on redundancy. A rule of thumb is to have three good reasons for everything you do, and three ways of making sure it gets done!

Many management models have been developed. Choose one and use it!

One system identifies four dominant personality styles: promoter, controller, supporter and analyzer. Each person also has a back up or secondary style. A strong team has all four styles represented more than once. Promoters are good at getting things started, networking, spreading the word, showing up at gatherings. Analyzers love data—collecting it, massaging it, graphing it. Supporters make sure everyone is doing well, follow up with action agreements, remind folks of meetings, make sure the guest speaker is well looked after. Controllers keep it all organized. They're good at balancing the budget, making sure the hall key gets picked up, and keeping the minute book up to date in a safe retrievable place. Each style has its strengths and weaknesses (strengths taken to extremes are a form of weakness and signal opportunities for improvement!).

The RACI system stands for *Reports* to, takes *Action*, *Consults* with and *Informs*. A spreadsheet identifies the person responsible for each step of a decision or job. At Glorious Organics Co-op they have simplified this to a series of captains who are responsible for each part of the farming enterprise from ordering the seeds to collecting the accounts receivable. Captains "do or cause to be done" whatever they sign up for. Co-captains back them up.

We need catalysts to inoculate the initiative with passion and purpose, and solid detail folks to do the careful follow up (did Bob get his sheet back about those purple carrot seeds everyone is waiting for? Has Sharon returned her Grower's Bio sheet?). And every group needs the outgoing soul who will approach garden clubs and put up posters so that every last seed saving person is lured in from the woodwork. Having ready access to someone confident with computer email lists, databases, spreadsheets or graphics is a must, and having two of them is even better. Knowing the people with a bit of extra time to make seed bags or sit on the phone will take the heat off those with a farm to run. And don't we all love those heroes who can raise funds or pull a resource out of thin air?

Breaking down tasks early and making sure that volunteers are well suited to their positions and understand their differing contributions can help ensure success—especially if a definition of success has been clearly articulated. Keeping a trusted buddy up to date on each job prevents desperate moments later when a phone number or important list is needed quickly.

What strengths do you have in your group? What is each person looking after? Who's good at facilitating meetings? Resolving conflicts? Teaching others about seed growing basics? What are the gaps you need to recruit to cover? Whatever system you use make sure to refer to it regularly and adjust it as necessary.

Above all, remember to keep a healthy balance of work *and* play—both are essential to sustain a collective.

Organizing a Workshop

A good way to bring interested folks out of the woodwork is to hold an event that features an inspiring guest speaker with special knowledge, skills and teaching ability. Unfortunately this usually works best if the person is somewhat of a celebrity from out of town. The presenter should be asked to give a compelling overview of the reasons for preserving and developing open pollinated seed. Make sure it is clear that one significant goal of the gathering is to identify local people who will

carry on the important work of increasing local seed growing as well as joining together in a community venture.

Allow plenty of time during the food break for socializing and exploring next steps. Perhaps conclude with a go-round: asking each person what they are taking away from the workshop and how they will contribute to building a shared effort. Allowing each participant to speak for even a minute helps weave the circle together. If time is a concern, use a watch or clock with a clearly visible second hand. A person knows their time is up when the person beside them hands them the time piece. They then time the next speaker and so on.

The growing number of "Seedy Saturdays" (and Sundays) in February-March each year provide great opportunities for exchanging seeds, ideas, featuring a guest speaker and celebrating the arrival of another season of opportunities to come together around the many aspects of implementing regional food sustainability strategies.

Sample Break-even Workshop Budget

Revenue		
25 tickets @ $30.00	750	number of participants x registration fee (includes light meal)
Donations	50	
	800	
Expenses		
Hall Rental (5 hours)	100	hourly rate x number hours
Guest speaker	500	(consider travel time, cost and accommodation as well as presentation and handouts)
Caterer	200	food, prep, set up, clean up
	800	

Putting a Brochure to Work for You

As much as we hate to cut down trees and try to live in a paperless world, there is nothing like an information sheet that someone can stick into a knapsack or a handbag to provide a solid link back to you and your community group. It may not be this week or this month that this paper gets brought out or passed around, but the great number of very out-of-date membership forms we receive for our local organic growers group shows that people will save this little connection until they are ready. Of course, the information can live on a website as well: to be downloaded and printed as desired.

Info sheets at events like Seedy Saturday, plant sales, or NGO booths should contain as much information as possible. Try to address all of the questions a potential volunteer might have. Use extra space for nuggets of philosophy or great quotes. Don't forget to give lots of contact numbers. People get frustrated when they finally decide to connect with a group, only to find the only contact number is out of service.

A brochure is a handy way to cram information into a small area, add a distinctive flair, provide resources and tips all while attracting people to join you in the network. It folds up small, can be printed on recycled paper and can be left in obvious places, throughout the year, where plant people meet. Brochures can be designed with membership forms conveniently added onto the back flap, and can contain a questionnaire so that people can choose their volunteer options.

On our local Sunshine Coast brochure, we chose to give some tips, expose our philosophy, begin to lay out what we had planned to make sure everyone aligned with our charter. Our charter can be used by your local graphics person to model a new one or you can email Victoria and she will personalize the brochure for your community for $40, deliver a print-ready file which you can forward to your local print shop, and leave you with an original copy. Contact her at victoria@dakotacreekdesign.com.

Sunshine Coast Seed Collective Brochure

Double-Sided, 2-Fold, Designed by Victoria. Email Victoria@dakotacreekdesign.com

Outside Panels

WHO ARE WE?

The **Sunshine Coast Seed Collective** is a group of concerned residents on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia working to maintain a healthy, safe food-seed supply for our community.

WHAT ARE WE WORKING ON?

There's so much to be done!

First, we're creating an on-line database so available seed (for either trade or sale) can be listed and updated by members. We'll have an all year display of seeds that can be accessed by anyone with a need, and can be added to when supplies allow.

"Take what you need, leave what you can"

Second, we'll be updating our classes so that newcomers to seed saving can begin learning when they're ready. Education is an important component of seed saving, as it ensures a clean, correctly labelled and stored seed supply.

Finally, and we think most importantly, we're forming a commercial collective so that members of the community can easily purchase local seed from experienced growers at any time of year.

Join us and delve into the rewarding world of seed saving!

Find out more at **www.slas.ca/seedsaving**

RESOURCES

Books:

The Five Levels of Seed Saving by Terry Klokeid $6

Websites:
www.bcseeds.org
www.saltspringseeds.com
www.onestraw.ca
www.westcoastseeds.com
www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/training/seedsaving.htm

Videos:
www.mapofsaltspring.com/raven/

From the One Straw Society:

One Straw's **Seedy Saturday** will host a seed exchange annually and provide lessons.

Other Resources:

Classes at the Sustainable Living Arts School (slas.ca) will be held on a regular basis.

Grow Your Own Dinner mentors can act as guides for participant families.

Mentors up and down the coast will provide **classes on seed saving** throughout the year.

Visit us online for program details and class times throughout the year at **www.slas.ca/seedsaving**

Inside Panels

Sunshine Coast
SEED SAVING
COLLECTIVE

Our Charter:

- To **ensure the availability** of ready, local seed to our community
- To **develop locally adapted seeds** that perform best with our climate, diseases and pests
- To **protect a wide range of** genetic plant **diversity**
- To **ensure that local seed is available** to people of all economic backgrounds
- To **educate the community** on best practices for seed saving
- To **create a truly sustainable community** by enabling complete food cycles
- To **hand our seeds** to the upcoming generations
- To **celebrate** the green gifts of the earth

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Seed Honouring

This season before you start planting, hold a few seeds in your hand, close your eyes and take a deep breath. Feel the seeds in the palms of your hands and try to imagine who could have possibly held and grown these seeds hundreds of years before you.

Barley seeds were birthed in Ethiopia and corn has been grown by indigeneous people in Mexico for about 6000 years. Anasazi bean seeds date back to 130 AD. Every seed that you plant in your garden is a treasure that exists because someone was committed to growing food, caring for plants and sharing their seed. Now you have the opportunity to become a part of a time honoured tradition.

Why a seed collective?

Growing good, healthy food requires good, healthy seed.

A community seed collective is a place where gardeners and farmers can store all kinds of seed varieties from the many different foods that are grown locally. The seed collective enhances food security because seeds are readily available if disasters affect the quality and quantity of required seeds.

In time, a seed collective can become a place where people share growing strategies and help to conserve valuable parts of a community's food history and heritage.

[This pamphlet was funded as a joint project by Farm Folk City Folk & The One Straw Society]

Seeds to Save

Simple seeds (most likely to stay "true"):
Pepper, lettuce, pea, tomato, eggplant, wheat, broad bean, bush bean, pole bean.

Seeds that need isolation to breed "true":
Cucumber, melon, orach, all squash, sunflower, runner bean, radish, spinach, corn.

Biennials that will cross with other plants:
Leeks, beets and chard, broccoli and all other brassicas, carrots and parsnips.

Clones (always safe):
Potato and sunchoke tubers, garlic.

Quick Seed Saving Tips

- Save from many healthy plants with good characteristics (slow to bolt, resist disease, grow well in cold spring, etc.).
- Collect seed when it is ripe and dry it quickly.
- Hull it before storage.
- Label carefully.
- Store cool/cold, dry and dark.

Growing Seed Growers

A main requirement of a community seed collective is that all participants understand and agree to the need for properly grown out, selected and stored seed. This is doubly important if a community has to depend on these seeds for survival one day. There are several ways to ensure your growers are properly informed and this should certainly be discussed so that lots of easy to access information is available. There should be a minimum standard of seed knowledge to ensure that all growers are getting good and solid information. The minimum standard of seed knowledge should include:

- Understanding of the cycles of annuals, biennials and perennials, and how this relates to collecting seed. For instance, biennials can be planted in different years to reduce worries of crossing.
- Understanding of issues of hybrid versus open pollinated. We don't want people to waste a season trying to grow out hybrid seeds!
- Knowledge of which plants will breed true and which will cross. Have a list of in-breeders and out-breeders and knowing when it is safe to plant the out-breeders.
- Knowledge of how to bring new genes to small populations of community-based seed. Out-breeders from a small number of plants will need to be reinvigorated now and then.
- Knowledge of the pros and cons of seed grown plants versus clones. Understand the limitations of clones such as potatoes and strawberry plants.
- Good selection techniques. A wide range of characteristics (5-7) might be best for the home garden—not just the most robust plant, but the frost resistant and the late blooming for instance.
- Good understanding of Isolation Distances to prevent contamination. (See the Sunshine Farm Seed Saver Guide in the appendix).
- Good harvest techniques. Collect at the correct time and dry carefully.
- Good storage techniques. Keep seeds dry, cool and dark, at even temperature and relative humidity.
- Excellent labelling and documentation is critical!

Education can occur in several settings. Those who feel confident passing on the basics can teach one to one, or better yet plan evenings when several learners can encourage each other. This could be a regular event, or be pre-planned to align with other community events such as Seedy Saturday or Fall Fairs. Written information to back up the spoken word is an advantage and preparing a hand out for long term use is a good idea. Lists of example plants will certainly help people remember their lessons. See Appendix A.1 Basic Seed Saving Handout and A.2 Sunshine Farms Seed Saver Guide.

There are many fine books available that people can buy for reference, or these can be purchased and donated to the public library so there is always an accessible source of information. A new seed collective could also begin purchasing books to lend to new growers.

New growers may be intimidated by the rules for commercial sales, particularly for notorious out-breeders, which need rigorous isolation distances, rouging and large plant populations to produce high quality seeds. A seed collective should take responsibility for ensuring that good practices within the confines of small, close gardens are considered and have a plan for good education and frequent exchange of new genes!

There are certain qualities when choosing seed educators that should be considered. While your most qualified and ambitious seed saver might be available to you, please keep in mind that you are looking for articulate people. It would be better to find one or two such folks and bring them up to speed rather than rely on someone who may not be well versed at encouraging discussion and pleasurable

learning. It is imperative that a growing number of solidly informed people become available to your community.

Grower Information Sheets

A sample Grower Information Sheet is included in Appendix A.4

The collective needs to maintain a record of every one growing their seeds, either electronically or in paper files or binders or both. In either case, there needs to be a reliable back up system.

As they come in, each grower is assigned a code so that all seeds are traceable to their growers. Canada's Seeds of Diversity uses the first letter of first name, and first two letters of last name. eg DLa for Denise Lagasse and TSm for Tom Smith. This gives a nice short identifying code, though this might be unnecessary in small towns. Now we can cross reference their phone number, seed growing experience and garden conditions without having to fill all that in on every different Seed Data Base record sheet.

Note that we have asked each donor to sign a pledge that they have learned seed saving basics before offering their seed. This is to slow the avalanche of well meaning people with bags full of pumpkin seeds gathered from who-knows-what mixed squash field, or the person growing the same broccoli for years without introducing new genes. Even long time seed savers might be missing a few details. We also think it is important to understand organic practices. We do not want hybrid or GMO seed sneaking in, and many want or need their seed to come from organically stewarded or Certified Organic gardens. The Canadian Organic Standards are available free of charge at http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/on_the_net/organic/index-e.html

Record Keeping

You will find a set of Seed Data Base record sheets for photocopying at the back of this booklet in the appendix. If you wish to download digital copies, they are available at www.farmfolkcityfolk.ca/resources/seedSaving.html and http://www.bcseeds.org/seedSaving.php. These can be forwarded to others electronically, or printed for handout.

Creating a filing system that affords easy retrieval is key. To satisfy both the technical purist as well as the casual home grower, we designed these sheets for use in two ways. Those familiar with the botanical classification systems can file their data sheets using the box in the *upper* right of the page (Leguminosae, Chenopodiaceae, Allium). Those communities more comfortable using the common names can fill in the *lower* right hand box, and then use that box for alphabetical filing (beans, beets, garlic). However, learning the Latin family and genus names provides good clues for seed saving effectiveness. These sheets may help with that learning.

Each grower will need an appropriate sheet for each kind of seed they grow. If Jane has three types of Allium to share, and prefers to use common names, she would request, copy or download (one or three) empty Allium pages, then would fill them out and return them to the binder or person with the electronic database. Her chive seed could be filled under C, her two Garlics under G, then filed under their common names after that - first the Asian Tempest garlic, then the Music.

Computer databases are preferably as they allow quick cross-referencing. A lucky community might find a generous soul who will create and maintain this system, although there are the always-present issues of system crashing and accessibility. In our own community we have not yet found someone to dedicate this much computer time for free. Many people seem comfortable with a paper system in a binder. We are also assuming that small communities like ours will not be dealing with hundreds of seeds (yet!!) and that the paper system could be sufficient.

Note: As you set up your data base system, please also set up a policy to have two copies of every entry! Computers get stolen and crash, and binders go missing. Have a system in place to have a duplicate copy of your records in another safe place that many people know of!

Seed Storage and Distribution

Seeds must be stored somewhere, and it is likely that the growers themselves can do a good job of that though it does mean the consumer needs to visit every grower's far flung property annually to gather their seed supply. Creating a central seed bank can be a useful tool to reduce travel, and provide a centre for meeting, learning, and leaving messages and supplies for others. An existing central community space would be ideal for this. The down side of centralizing a seed collection is that the entire supply could be lost should anything like a disastrous fire occur. It is vital to keep seed collections decentralized so that all will not be lost in one go if the unexpected occurs.

1) Grower as seed keeper. Growers, whatever method of group storage occurs, should always keep a supply of seed in their own hands. They should have enough for planting, and another batch put aside in case it needs re-introducing back into the community or re-planting. Good up-to-date accessible databases are important so that everyone knows who and where each grower is. Priorities for seed management and distribution are as follows:

1) Reserve the very best seed for replanting—but not all of it at one time!

2) then put aside seed for community distribution

3) and use the lower grade seed for food!

(Each grower needs good long-term rodent proof storage with consistent cool temperatures and a reliable packaging and labelling system.)

2) Seed Bank. Your group may agree that a safe, common area will be the official seed bank, and that growers can deposit excess (*not all)* bulk packaged seeds there and list their seeds for community use or sale. This could be a neighbourhood freezer or a collective seed company. This means a large batch of seed is well preserved, but on the other hand, the whole supply could be lost through fire or other accident.

(*Items needed: jars or bags for seeds, large waterproof tote or plastic buckets, binder or other database system to record seed deposits, cool dark environment free of rodents and insects*).

3) Free Seed Project. We are deciding in our community that a selection of seeds (for instance, the remains of Seedy Saturday, usually packed away and inaccessible for another year, or extras from growers or small seed businesses) can be left in jars in a public area where they are available over a longer period. This means securing a dedicated place to leave seeds for gardeners to pick up at their convenience. It also means that unskilled seed savers may be getting involved in the distribution scheme. These seeds are accessed with the clear caveat that they may be older or have been stored in less than ideal conditions, and therefore have lower germination rates.

(*Items needed: Large jars or plastic totes, small paper envelopes, clipboard and pens so people can note what they have dropped off or picked up, posters with instructions for use, and a cool, dark environment if at all possible. A few volunteers to oversee this depot would be advisable.)*

4) Commercial Seed Collective. Some growers would like to sell their seeds instead of giving it away. Certainly, expecting a return for your energy is a good motivator for improving the quality of your product, may increase the purchaser's trust that extra care has been given to quality, gives the purchaser a way to trace the seed if questions follow, and can increase the growers income. Many small seed producers feel it is not worth their while to create a package or marketing system for their seed, and working collectively on this could be the answer. In our community we are working on a package that several growers could use, which will have a collective logo and the contact information of each grower. We can combine our available time for creating information sheets and finding a

couple of venues that would sell our seed. We can take each other's seeds to the markets and share the proceeds. We are already selling and trading seed to each other so that someone can fulfil a season's worth of sales on something they run short of. We can grow out similar crops and trade our diverse gene pool back and forth to each other, or grow crops that may cross easily in distant parts of the community so that both exist without issue. These last points of course would relate to the rest of the seed collecting community as well.

(Needed: good communication such as regular meetings or a small email list for the members, good seed planting records, someone with graphics skill, affordable and creative packaging.)

5) Seed Growing Club. In one Seed Saving group, certain growers are instilled with the duty of growing out certain plants for seed each year, and a record is kept of who these people are. While this ensures that all plant categories are covered, it also means that someone must follow up that people are doing a good job of saving a seed they might not be used to growing out. Growers would be responsible for listing all saved seeds on the communal database, and of storing them properly.

(Items needed: Paper in binder or electronic database, seasonal meetings.)

And remember…

Build in redundancy—have a duplicate of everything, from grower lists to computer flash drives.

Commercial Growers' Information

Some of us hope that growing seed for commercial purposes will just be a large-scale version of what we are doing for home use, but this is not the case. When we grow seed for commercial sale, people are depending on it being exactly what is says on the package, and they are assuming seed will be fresh and properly stored for good germination. Though many home growers get a bit slack with what they are offering to friends and Seedy Saturday attendees, a much different expectation arises when we pay a grower to supply us with food seed.

Many serious growers will gladly pick up a few packets of interesting new things at a Seed Swap, but reserve their serious farm dollars for tried and true seed. When we enter the commercial field, it is important that we take this seriously and honour the trust being put in us.

Selling in-breeders such as peas or tomatoes is one thing, but the out-breeders need a tremendous amount of gene exchange to stay truly healthy, and this may mean planting hundreds, if not thousands of plants to gather seed from to adequately fulfil the need for rich genetic makeup. Aside from the numbers needed, commercial growers are also obligated to remove (rogue out) all unusual mutations that may have been acceptable and even intriguing to the home gardener. There is also the worry that nearby farmers are growing a similar plant that may be pollinating our own fields, unbeknownst to us. Good records must be kept, harvesting must be careful and germination must be tested. There is much to take into account!

A wonderful local resource is Patrick Steiner's *Small-Scale Organic Seed Production*, which discusses many of the above issues and includes charts and lists, lots of resources and tips. The Siskou Example on page 20 &21 describes how one group evolved into a successful commercial co-operative. The book can be downloaded free of charge: http://farmfolkcityfolk.ca/programs/farm/seed_manual.html or purchased for $10 from FarmFolkCityFolk at 604 730-0450.

Commercial seed growing can seem ominous, but for true food security, BC needs many more farmers to come on board so that we can supply our communities with healthy and well adapted seed and support the local economy by keeping our seed money at home.

If you are a already growing seed commercially, check out www.bcseeds.org for further networking and marketing opportunities.

Glossary

Clones. When we plant potatoes or small strawberry plants, we are taking asexual plant matter and growing it out, and since the genetic makeup is identical to the parent, we are actually planting clones. This is an easy way to propagate plants and we know exactly what we are going to get. The weakness is that since there is no genetic diversity in your field, if that parent plant were susceptible to a disease that blows through, all the clones will also be susceptible.

In-breeders (also called "selfers"). These plants have the capacity to pollinate themselves easily and tend not to absorb pollen from other plants around them. They tend to breed "true" and are dependable plants to learn to save seed from because the chance of problems is so low. Examples are tomatoes, lettuce, bush beans, peas and pole beans.

Out-breeders (also called "crossers"). These plants will not only absorb pollen from nearby relatives from the same seed packet, they will absorb pollen from any relative, and often from quite a large radius. These plants take more knowledge for the beginner to breed "true", because of the high chance of cross pollination from other gardens and farms. Because these plants are now "crosses" of likely unknown parentage, the seed is unproven. Although "good" crosses can occur, growers may waste a year and much land finding out which unproven seed is bearing good results. Examples of out-breeders are squash, melons, corn, sunflowers, and many more.

Roguing. This term is used to describe the removal of plants whose genes you do *not* want saved at seed saving time. By removing plants who attract aphids or powdery mildew, or who barely matured seed in time for the first frost, you are making sure those traits are not passed on. Roguing can get more intense as the grower becomes more proficient at growing out the healthiest plant stock with more carefully selected attributes (early flowering, large fruit).

True. A seed that can dependably reproduce the traits of the parent plant is said to be "true".

Certified Organic. If you are "certified" organic, you may use this term to describe your food on a commercial basis, as it means you have had a formally accepted certifying body investigate and approve of your growing methods. Go to http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca for a Certification Body List.

Sustainable Practices. Some growers hesitate to call their products "organic" while realizing they are using many good practices. Improving our practices is an ongoing challenge and analysing all of our behaviours keeps us growing. Learning from community members will help you move upwards in your sustainable practices until you feel you are ready to study, understand and utilize the Canada Organic Standard, whether you certify or not.

Resources

Below are some BC written resources that can be purchased and resold in your community.

Jason, Dan — *Saving Seeds As If Our Lives Depended on it*, Salt Spring Seeds, 2008
$12 plus shipping. dan@saltspringseeds.com, Salt Spring Seeds, Box 444, Ganges P.O. Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2W1 Canada

Klokeid, Terry — *The Five Levels of Seed Saving, 2002*,
$6 plus shipping A quick reference booklet that can be purchased through Edible Landscapes, www.ediblelandscapes.ca or (604) 885-4505

Steiner, Patrick — *Small Scale Organic Seed Production*
$10 for print copy. Working towards the commercial aspects of seed growing. There are many good tips for seed producers of all sizes. Wonderful stories to add context. Contact Farmfolkcityfolk at admin@ffcf.bc.ca or call (604 730-0450)

Other Books

Ashworth, Suzanne — *Seed to Seed. Seed Saving and Growing Techniques for Vegetable Gardener.* Seed Savers Exchange, 2002

Great, easy to read book which gives detailed instructions for each plant family in pollination, selecting, harvesting, cleaning and storage. A must for the Collective Library.

Deppe, Carol — *Breed Your Own Vegetable Varieties; the Gardeners and Farmers Guide to Plant Breeding and Seed Saving.* White River Jct, Vermont: Chelsea Green Publishers, 2000

The beginner can try their hand at the basics while the more serious plant breeder will also be challenged by this wonderful book. Lovely stories are included, plus issues and problems that breeders will confront.

Videos

http://mapofsaltspring.com/raven/ (scan left banner and choose)

Websites

http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/training/seedsaving.htm

www.bcseeds.org Our new BC resource for organic seed growers and buyers.

www.savingourseeds.org Principles and practices of isolation distances for seed crops.

www.seeds.ca Canada's national seed exchange

www.westcoastseeds.com Lots of good growing tips.

http://usc-canada.org/resources/publications, select Audio Visual–Banking Diversity.

Appendix

Downloadable Resources:

A.1 Basic Seed Saving Handout

Hints for Saving and Re-offering Seeds

Seed saving can be as easy as putting a handful of dried peas into a bag for the winter or as complex as hand pollinating two carefully chosen plant varieties. Although most of us prefer the more simple methods of seed saving, we have to keep some plant basics in mind to guarantee a better harvest next year.

Many plants self-pollinate (the in-breeders such as lettuce, tomatoes, bush beans, peas, peppers and broad beans) and therefore will not cross-pollinate with other varieties or closely related species. These seeds almost always come true and therefore are quite easy to save while at the same time maintaining their genetic integrity.

Other plants will happily cross pollinate with close relatives (the out-breeders—cucumber, melon, orach, squash, sunflower, runner beans, radish, spinach, corn) and if they do, next year's seed will grow something in between the two parents, often making the result inedible. For example, two varieties of carrot may be planted close together and cross-pollinate; further, carrots also cross with the common weed Queen Anne's Lace.

Although some accidental good crosses occur, this cross may lose some of the more positive qualities of each parent. To prevent that from happening, and to be sure of what you are growing, it is important not to let your out-breeders cross unless you are getting very skilled. Many meters or even kilometres are needed between certain plants or they may cross. You want to be able to guarantee the seed you are offering is true and grows dependably. On the other hand, if you want to experiment with the progeny, go ahead, but please don't offer it back as a true type unless you know what seed you've ended up with!

It has also been found that growing too few out-breeder parents will not offer a large enough genetic mix for selecting healthy progeny. For instance, 20 couples on a desert island would have a better chance of creating genetically healthy grandchildren than two couples would. For this reason, it is a good idea to plant enough seeds so that as the genes pass back and forth from adult flowers, there are a large variety of combinations to pull from.

Now that you've planted your large number of plants at the listed distance, grow them out and watch each plant for signs of vigour (strong growth, robust flowering). Save seed from plants that survived a frost, born fruit early or had other good traits. Mark these plants and use them for seed. Plants that mildew heavily, or single plants that attract large numbers of aphids should be left out of your seed saving regime. With out-breeders, remove the plants you don't want before they flower to make sure they don't end up in the gene pool.

Seeds should be gathered when they are as mature as possible—normally when they are hard to the thumbnail and the pod or husk is dry. It is best to clean off any husk or pod material before storage because it may harbour tiny insects that would eat your bagged seed as they hatched (not their fault—that's all they could find to eat!)

Next, be careful to dry the seed well, with good airflow, out of bright light, and to pick out the plumpest, finest seed to keep for next year. The rule for storing seed is the opposite of growing them—instead of warm/moist/bright you want cold/dry/dark. Label seeds well with their origin, name, date collected and perhaps unique traits such as germination rate and location grown. Seeds keep well if wrapped in paper and stored in a jar in the fridge or cold cupboard. Remember that mice and insects will be attracted to your healthy seed, so guard them well.

Carefully grown true seeds have been moving around the world for centuries. Make this magical event come true again in your own garden

Robin Wheeler/One Straw Society

A.2 Sunshine Farms Seed Saver Guide

Sunshine Farms have been distributing this wonderful guide for years. Please see their site at www.sunshinefarms.ca

Sunshine Farm Seed Saver Guide

Check the Latin Name to ensure that you avoid unintentional crossing. Plants with the same Latin name may cross with each other. For Example, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale and kohlrabi, collards, brussell sprouts all belong to the same genus (Brassica) and species (oleracea) and will cross with one another.

Isolation distance is the distance plants need from other plants with the same Latin name to maintain genetic purity. (Refer to Page V).

The minimum number of plants needed is noted in the chart. This is important to prevent in-breeding depression which may show itself in a weakened line. The larger the 'gene pool' the better chance of maintaining a healthy diversity and as much genetic information as possible.

Don't use bio engineered seed. It could be sterile and/or patented. (Certified Organic ensures that it is not bio-engineered).

Annuals which produce seed in the first year are easier. Plants such as peas and beans, which are self-pollinators, are easy to shell when completely dry.

Biennials produce seed in the second year. Plants such as carrots, celery, parsley, parsnip, cabbage and broccoli. These may need to be kept in a cooler, or mulched over winter.

At seed harvest, dry most seed. Most seed is harvested dry—peas and beans clean easily and, like radish and mustard, should be ripened in the field. The pods can be picked and cracked by rubbing in screens with gloves.

Harvest tomato seeds 'wet'. Select ripe, true to form fruit. These benefit from a short fermentation process. Scrape the seeds into a bucket, mix with a little water and stir, label right away. Keep in a warm area for a couple of days; stir each day, breaking up the mass. On the third day, pour off the top and then pour the seeds that have settled to the bottom into a colander and then onto a board to dry. Cucumbers can be collected in the same manner, as long as they have completely ripened.

Squash have four species, Cucurbita pepo, Cucurbita maxima, Cucurbita moschata and Cucurbita mixta. Cucurbita pepo includes summer squash like scallopini, zucchini, acorn, spaghetti, delicata.

Cucurbita maxima includes buttercup and hubbard. Cucurbita moschata includes butternut. Cucurbita mixta includes cushaw squash. Let the fruit completely ripen on the vine (so the skin is impenetrable to the finger nail), scrape out the seeds and stringy flesh - put the mass in a bowl and work with the hands to break it up. Seeds which sink are usually viable. Strain them in a colander, and spread on a board to dry thoroughly. Discard flat seeds; keep the well formed plump seed.

Seed saving is an ancient tradition practiced by farmers and gardeners alike. It's easy to carry on this tradition and maintain a link to our past, carry it to the future, and be connected to the Earth through one of its basic cycles, selecting, saving, planting and savoring.

Select your best plants for seed, those which are true to variety, e.g.: do not replant bean seed that does not look like the original seed you planted (save it for the soup pot). By selecting plants that perform well in our own gardens, we are selecting for an acclimatized variety that should consistently do well in our climate, weather and discrete conditions.

Plant Characteristics to look for when selecting could include: earliness, drought resistance, pest and disease resistance, vigor, colour, hardiness, flavour and productivity.

Use open pollinated varieties, those which come true to variety from seed (not from hybrids, often designated F1).

Know your plant distances or Isolation boundaries to avoid unintentional crosses. Please refer to the attached planting guide for 'isolation' distances for different varieties.

Save from a number of plants to keep your gene pool diverse. Please refer to the attached planting guide for 'Minimum plants needed' for different varieties.

Collect seed from your strongest plants which are most true to the original. Eliminate any unhealthy, or misshapen plants from those you plan to harvest seed from (they will likely still make great eating!).

Use Screens to clean the seeds. Selecting the screen size most suited to filter out the seeds and leave any chaff or debris. Make sure to work over a board or bowl to collect the smallest seeds.

Seed Storage. Most seeds should be stored in a cool, dry, dark, airtight environment, if these conditions are maintained, they should remain viable for several years (refer to chart). Storage in a freezer, in a moisture proof container, will prolong seed life.

A.3 Sunshine Farm Seed Spacing and Planting Guide For Common Garden Vegetables Visit us at www.sunshinefarm.ca

Name	Latin	Planting Depth	Planting Distance	Germination Temp in °C	Days to Germination	How Pollinated	Isolation Distance	Min. Plants Needed	Seeds per 10 grams	Seed Life
Bean, Bush, A	Phaseolus vulgaris	1-2"	4"	15°	5-8	Self	45Meters	20-50	20-30	3-4 years
Bean, Pole, A	Phaseolus vulgaris	1-2"	4-8"	15°	5-8	Self	800 Meters	20	20-30	3-4 years
Bean, Runner, A	Phaseolus coccineus	1-2"	4-8"	15°	6-14	Self	800 Meters	10	4-10	4-5 years
Beet, B	Beta vulgaris	1/2-1"	4-6"	10°	4-10	Wind	3-5 Km	10	400	3-4 years
Broccoli	Brassica oleracea	1/4"	12-18"	7°	5-10	Insect	800 Meters	50	1,750	4-5 years
Brussels Sprouts, B	Brassica oleracea	1/4"	18-20"	7°	5-10	Insect	800 Meters	50	1,750	4-5 years
Cabbage, B	Brassica oleracea	1/4"	12-18"	6°	4-5	Insect	800 Meters	50	1,750	4-5 years
Carrot, B	Daucus carota	1/4"	3-5"	7°	5-10	Insect	1.5-4.5 Km	80	5,350	3-4 years
Cauliflower, B	Brassica oleracea	1/4"	15-18"	7°	5-10	Insect	800 Meters	50	2,850	4-5 years
Celeriac, Celery, B	Apium graveolens	1/4"	6-12"	21°	10-28	Insect	800 Meters	50	27,850	4-5 years
Corn, A	Zea mays	1-2"	18"	12°	4-7	Wind	1Kilometer	200	50	3-4 years
Cucumber, A	Cucumis sativus	1/2"	12-36"	21°	3-5	Insect	800 Meters	10	350	6-7 years
Eggplant, A	Solanum melongena	1/2"	18-24"	26°	5-7	Self	11Meters	12	2,150	4-5 years
Kale, B	Brassica oleracea	1/2"	8-24"	7°	5-10	Insect	800 Meters	50	3,675	4-5 years
Kohlrabi, B	Brassica oleracea	1/4"	6-15"	7°	5-10	Insect	800 Meters	50	3,850	4-5 years
Leek, B	Allium ampeloprasum	6"-24"	3-6"	6°	6-15	Insect	1.5-3 Km	10-30	3,500	1-2years
Lettuce, A	Lactuca sativa	1/4"	6-12"	4°	5-10	Self	7.5 Meters	10	2,100	2-5 years
Melon, A	Cucumis melo	1/2"	36-48"	21°	5-10	Insect	800 Meters	10	280	6-7 years
Mustard, A	Brassica juncea	1/4"	6-15"	10°	5-7	Insect	800 Meters	50	3,500	4-5 years
Onion, B	Allium cepa	1/4-1/2"	3-5"	10°	6-15	Insect	1.5-3 Km	10-30	3,500	1-2 years
Parsley, B	Petroselinum crispum	1/4-1/2"	6-12"	12°	21	Insect	1.5 Km	10	4,850	2-5 years
Parsnip, B	Pastinaca sativa	1/2"	3-6"	10°	21	Insect	1.5 Km	10-20	3,500	1-2 years
Pea, A	Pisum sativum	1-2"	1-3"	4°	7-21	Self	15 Meters	25-50	40-45	3-4 years
Pepper, A	Capsicum spp.	1/4-1/2"	15-20"	18°	14	Self	150 Meters	5-10	1,350	2-4 years
Pumpkin, A	Cucurbita pepo	1/2-1"	36-48"	12°	4-7	Insect	800 Meters	10	50	6-7 years
Radish, A	Raphanus sativus	1/4-1/2"	2-3"	7°	3	Insect	800 Meters	50	1,750	4-5 years
Rutabaga, B	Brassica napus	1/4"	4-6"	10°	5-14	Insect	800 Meters	50	1,925	4-5 years
Spinach, A	Spinacia oleracea	1/4-1/2"	6"	7°	7-21	Wind	3-5 Km	10-30	850	2-4 years
Squash, A	Cucurbita spp.	1-2"	36-48"	21°	4-7	Insect	800 Meters	10	50-70	6-7 years
Swiss Chard, B	Beta vulgaris	1/2-1"	12-18"	10°	4-10	Wind	3-5 Km	10	350	3-5 years
Tomato, A	Lycopersicon lycopersicum	1/4"	24-36"	15°	5-10	Self	3Meters	5-10	3,675	4-5 years
Turnip, B	Brassica rapa	1/2"	4-8"	10°	3-14	Insect	800 Meters	50	1,785	4-5 years
Watermelon, A	Citrullus lanatus	1-2"	36-48"	21°	5-10	Insect	800 Meters	10	175	3-5 years

A.4 Seed Data Base Grower Information Sheet

Grower Information Sheet			
Name:			**Code:**
Address:			
Town / City:			
Postal Code:			
Phone:		**Fax:**	
Email:			
Website:			
Best way to contact you:			
Certified By:		**Transitional**	
Use BC Organic standards		**Use Sustainable Practices**	
Number of years on present land		**Number of years using above practices**	
Your soil type and conditions:		**Zone:**	
Offered to Exchange Network (charge for shipping only)		**Offered for Sale** (Commercial)	
Seed Offered	Spring ❒ Summer ❒ Fall ❒ Winter ❒		

I understand the principles of organic growing, and I pledge to learn the basic principles of seed saving before I give or sell seeds to others.

Signature: _____

A.5 Seed Data Base Record Pages

Seed Data Base A.5.1

Seed Data Base	**Allium** (Onion or Garlic)
Latin Name	
Common Name	

TYPE	**Garlic** ❒	**Shallot** ❒	**Onion** ❒	**Leek** ❒	**Scallion** ❒	**Chives/ Other perennial (Welsh, Egyptian, Wild, etc.)**	❒

Colour	
Size	
Bulb Size	
Originally from	**Zone:**
Other information	

Offered to Exchange Network (charge for shipping only)	**Offered for Sale** (Commercial)

Seed Offered	Spring ❒	Summer ❒	Fall ❒	Winter ❒
Bulbs Offered	Spring ❒	Summer ❒	Fall ❒	Winter ❒

Contact Name	**Code:**
Contact Method and Details	

Insert common name (beet, garlic, bean) for common name/alpha filing

Seed Data Base	**Asteraceae** (Plants that develop multi flowerets on large base)
Latin Name (if known)	
Common Name	
Type	**artichoke** ❒ **burdock** ❒ **cardoon** ❒ **chicory** ❒ **lettuce** ❒ **salsify** ❒ **sunchoke** ❒ **sunflower** ❒
Colour	**Size** (as applicable)
Originally from	**Zone:**
Other information:	
Offered to Exchange Network (charge for shipping only)	**Offered for Sale** (Commercial)
Seed Offered Spring ❒ Summer ❒ Fall ❒ Winter ❒	
Contact Name	**Code:**
Contact Method and Details	

Insert common name (beet, garlic, bean) for common name/alpha filing

Seed Data Base

Brassica

(Cabbage, Horseradish, turnips, kale, broccoli, brussel sprouts, kohlrabi, collards, chinese mustard, sea kale, radish, mustards, cresses)

Latin Name
(if known)

Common Name

Type

cabbage ❐	horseradish ❐	turnip ❐	kale ❐	broccoli ❐	cress ❐
collards ❐	Chinese Mustard ❐	sea kale ❐	radish ❐	mustard ❐	Brussel sprouts ❐

Colour

Size
(as applicable)

Annual ❐
(example radish)

Biennial ❐
(example kale)

Perennial ❐
(example horseradish)

Originally from

Zone

Other information:

Offered to Exchange Network
(charge for shipping only)

Offered for Sale (Commercial)

Seed Offered Spring ❐ Summer ❐ Fall ❐ Winter ❐

Contact Name

Code:

Contact Method and Details

Insert common name (beet, garlic, bean) for common name/alpha filing

Seed Data Base	Chenopodiaceae/ Amaranthaceae
Latin Name (if known)	
Common Name	
Type	**amaranth** ❐ **chard** ❐ **beets** ❐ **orach** ❐ **spinach** ❐
Colour	**Size** (as applicable)
Originally from	
Other information:	
Offered to Exchange Network (charge for shipping only)	**Offered for Sale** (Commercial)
Seed Offered	Spring ❐ Summer ❐ Fall ❐ Winter ❐
Contact Name	**Code:**
Contact Method and Details	

Insert common name (beet, garlic, bean) for common name/alpha filing

Seed Data Base	**Cucurbitaceae Maxima** (Huge, Hairy leaves, soft, round spongy, hairy stems)

Latin Name
(if known)

Common Name

Type	**Buttercup** ❒	**Hubbard** ❒	**Turban** ❒

Colour	**Size**

Originally from	**Zone**

Other information:

Offered to Exchange Network (charge for shipping only)	**Offered for Sale** (Commercial)

Seed Offered Spring ❒ Summer ❒ Fall ❒ Winter ❒

Contact Name	**Code:**

Contact Method and Details

Insert common name (beet, garlic, bean) for common name/alpha filing

Seed Data Base	**Cucurbitaceae Mixta** (most Cushaw, all silver-seeded gourds) Spreading vines, hairy leaves with rounded leaf tip and barely indented leaves, stem is hard, hairy, slightly angular.

Latin Name
(if known)

Common Name

Type	**Cushaw** ❒ **Silver Seeded Gourd** ❒

Colour	**Size**

Originally from	**Zone**

Other information:

Offered to Exchange Network (charge for shipping only)	**Offered for Sale** (Commercial)

Seed Offered Spring ❒ Summer ❒ Fall ❒ Winter ❒

Contact Name	**Code:**

Contact Method and Details

Insert common name (beet, garlic, bean) for common name/alpha filing

Seed Data Base	**Cucurbitaceae Moschata** (Butternut, Cheese, golden and orange cushaws) Large hairy leaves, noticeable flare at stem where it meets fruit. Stem is hard, hairy and slightly angular. Flower has large leafy green sepals. Pointed leaf.

Latin Name **(if known)**			
Common Name			
Type	**Butternut** ❒	**Cheese** ❒	**Cushaw** ❒
Colour		**Size**	
Originally from		**Zone**	
Other information:			
Offered to Exchange Network (charge for shipping only)		**Offered for Sale** (Commercial)	
Seed Offered	Spring ❒	Summer ❒	Fall ❒ Winter ❒
Contact Name		**Code:**	
Contact Method and Details			

Insert common name (beet, garlic, bean) for common name/alpha filing

Seed Data Base	**Cucurbitaceae Pepo** (Acorn, Crookneck, Spaghetti, Patty Pan, Zucchini, small striped or warted gourds) Prickly leaves and stems, hard five-angled stem.

Latin Name
(if known)

Common Name

Type	**Acorn** ❐ **Crookneck** ❐ **Spaghetti** ❐ **Patty Pan** ❐
	Zucchini ❐ **Gourd** ❐

Colour	**Size**

Originally from		**Zone**

Other information:

Offered to Exchange Network (charge for shipping only)	**Offered for Sale** (Commercial)

Seed Offered Spring ❐ Summer ❐ Fall ❐ Winter ❐

Contact Name	**Code:**

Contact Method and Details

Insert common name (beet, garlic, bean) for common name/alpha filing

Seed Data Base	**Cucurbitaceae, Other** (Luffa, Watermelon, winter melon, cucumber)

Latin Name
(if known)

Common Name

Type	**Luffa** ❒	**Watermelon** ❒	**Winter Melon** ❒	**Cucumber** ❒

Colour	**Size**

Originally from	**Zone**

Other information:

Offered to Exchange Network (charge for shipping only)	**Offered for Sale** (Commercial)

Seed Offered Spring ❒ Summer ❒ Fall ❒ Winter ❒

Contact Name	**Code:**

Contact Method and Details

Insert common name (beet, garlic, bean) for common name/alpha filing

Seed Data Base	**Fabaceae / Legume** (nitrogen fixing plants – beans, lentils, peas, favas)
Latin Name **(if known)**	
Common Name	
Type	**bean** ❒ **pea** ❒ **lentil** ❒ **fava** ❒
Colour	**Size**
Originally from	**Zone**
Other information:	
Offered to Exchange Network (charge for shipping only)	**Offered for Sale** (Commercial)
Seed Offered	Spring ❒ Summer ❒ Fall ❒ Winter ❒
Contact Name	**Code:**
Contact Method and Details	

Insert common name (beet, garlic, bean) for common name/alpha filing

Seed Data Base	Solanum, Pepper
Latin Name (if known)	
Variety Name	
Type	slicing ❒ cherry ❒ canner ❒ sauce ❒
Growth Habit	determinate ❒
Colour	**Size**
Originally from	**Zone**
Other information:	
Offered to Exchange Network (charge for shipping only)	**Offered for Sale** (Commercial)
Seed Offered	Spring ❒ Summer ❒ Fall ❒ Winter ❒
Contact Name	**Code:**
Contact Method and Details	

	Insert common name (beet, garlic, bean) for common name/ alpha filing **Pepper**

Seed Data Base	Solanum, Tomato
Latin Name (if known)	
Variety Name	
Type	slicing ❒ cherry ❒ canner ❒ sauce ❒
Growth Habit	determinate ❒
Colour	**Size**
Flavour	
Originally from	**Zone**
Other information:	
Offered to Exchange Network (charge for shipping only)	**Offered for Sale** (Commercial)
Seed Offered	Spring ❒ Summer ❒ Fall ❒ Winter ❒
Contact Name	**Code:**
Contact Method and Details	

Insert common name (beet, garlic, bean) for common name/ alpha filing

Tomato

Seed Data Base	Solanum, Other
Latin Name (if known)	
Variety Name	
Type	
Growth Habit	
Colour	**Size**
Originally from	**Zone**
Other information:	
Offered to Exchange Network (charge for shipping only)	**Offered for Sale** (Commercial)
Seed Offered Spring ❒ Summer ❒ Fall ❒ Winter ❒	
Contact Name	**Code:**
Contact Method and Details	

	Insert common name (beet, garlic, bean) for common name/ alpha filing

Seed Data Base A.5.8

Seed Data Base	**Umbelliferes** **(Plants that develop umbrella shaped seed head)**
Latin Name (if known)	
Common Name	
Type	**carrot** ❒ **celery** ❒ **chervil** ❒ **dill** ❒ **fennel** ❒ **parsley** ❒ **parsnip** ❒
Colour	**Size** (as applicable)
Originally from	**Zone**
Other information:	
Offered to Exchange Network (charge for shipping only)	**Offered for Sale** (Commercial)
Seed Offered Spring ❒ Summer ❒ Fall ❒ Winter ❒	
Contact Name	**Code:**
Contact Method and Details	

Insert common name (beet, garlic, bean) for common name/alpha filing

Live Plant Data Base				Family Name
Latin Name				
Common Name				
Colour				**Plant Size**
Bulb/ Root Size				
Originally from				Zone
Other information				
Offered as Exchange (charge for shipping only)				**Offered for Sale** (Commercial)
Seed offered	Spring ❒	Summer ❒	Fall ❒	Winter ❒
Cutting offered	Spring ❒	Summer ❒	Fall ❒	Winter ❒
Bare root offered	Spring ❒	Summer ❒	Fall ❒	Winter ❒
Seedling offered	Spring ❒	Summer ❒	Fall ❒	Winter ❒
Bulbs/tuber offered	Spring ❒	Summer ❒	Fall ❒	Winter ❒
Contact Name				**Code:**
Contact Method and Details				

	Insert common name for common name/alpha filing

Copies of this manual are available for $10 in print format and $5 in pdf format.

Contact FarmFolkCityFolk Society at admin@ffcf.bc.ca or call 604 730-0450