

## **ABOUT US**

Established in 2021, we are a community project dedicated to saving and swapping seeds in the Guildford, Godalming and Farnham areas.

Our mission is to preserve a wide diversity of plants, by growing, saving and sharing seeds — especially heritage and local varieties. We also want to help teach and encourage others to grow their own and save seeds.





## LIVING SEED BANK

Rare or local varieties are grown on each year for preservation and sharing at seed swaps

#### SEED SWAP LOCATIONS

Permanent set of drawers in Guildford Library, seasonal in Haslemere Library — anyone can take and drop off seeds

## ACCESS TO HEIRLOOM TYPES

Maintain a selection of varieties that are either hard to find or rare — not commercially grown

# WHY SAVE SEEDS?



## PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY

Each seed carries unique traits that help plants adapt to their environment and evolve over time.

## **UNIQUE VARIETIES**

Preserve heirloom and rare plant varieties -many of which are no longer commercially available.

#### **COST EFFECTIVE**

Reduce the expense of buying expensive seed year on year.

## **FOOD SECURITY**

We believe everyone should have access to seed to grow their own food, even if it is just a few herbs in a window box.

#### SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Promotes self-sufficiency, and fosters a connection with our land, soil and community.

## WHAT SHOULD I SAVE SEED FROM?



## **DISTINCTIVE**

Does it have traits you want to preserve for the next growing season? Is it in danger of being lost?



#### **OPEN POLLINATED**

Insect or wind pollinated — not enforced pollination or in-breeding. (Not an F1 hybrid)



## **TASTE**

Does it taste nice, and do you/others enjoy eating it?



## **RELIABLE**

Has it coped with local conditions/ extreme weather conditions?

## **HEIRLOOM VARITIES**





## OPEN POLLINATED SEEDS

## **ADAPTABLE**

Genetically variable and therefore able to adapt to climate change and environmental conditions, evolving with them.

## FOOD PLANT BIODIVERSITY

80% loss in Europe in the past century. Balances monoculture.

## **CAN BE SAVED**

Everyone from farmers to allotment holders to gardeners can save and maintain

## **NON-GM OR HYBRID**

Seed saved will be true to type and can be used to develop local varieties

## **EASY SEEDS TO SAVE**

PEAS & BEANS

Largely self-fertile so seed should come true to type — allow to dry out fully before saving.

**TOMATOES** 

Start with an open pollinated variety (not a hybrid). Potato leaved varieties may cross to some degree.

**CHILLIES** 

Need to be isolated (or only grow one variety) as the do cross easily with other chillies and peppers

**FLOWERS** 

Foxgloves, scabious, cosmos, nigella, aquilegia — easy to save, but don't necessarily come true to type



## MORE INVOLVED SEEDS TO SAVE

CHARD & BEETROOT

Flower and set seed in the second year – can get very large (6ft). Need numerous plants to maintain diversity.

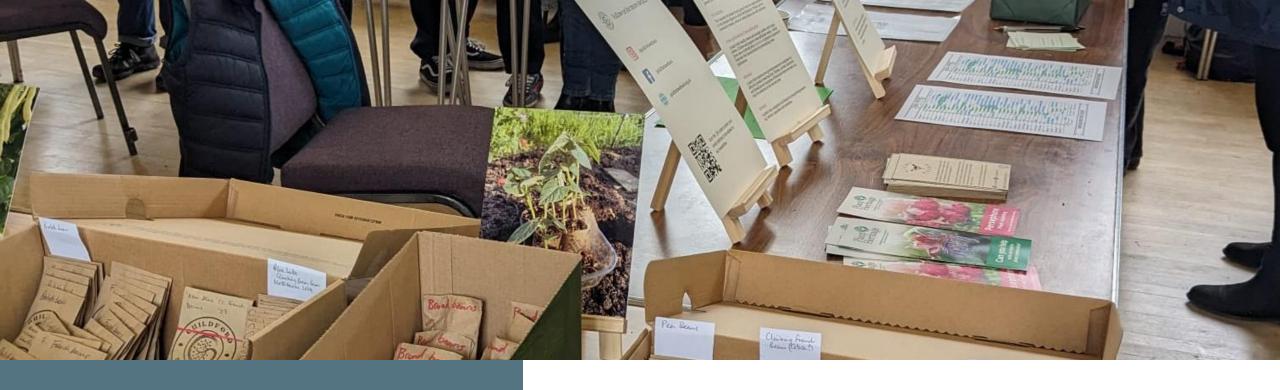
SQUASHES & PUMPKINS

Need to be hand-pollinated and isolated to ensure they don't cross. (Can lead to toxicity)

**BRASSICAS** 

Large number of plants (~25) to ensure diversity and prevent inbreeding depression. Crosses easily with others.





## GUILDFORD SEED SWAP

- 4th seed swap event was 23 February 2025 at Trinity Centre, Guildford
- 600 packets of seeds swapped
- 50p donation per seed packet taken (rather than swapped)

2025 DORKING ECO HUB



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

#### **MORE ABOUT SEEDS**

Welcome - Open Pollinated Seeds (open-pollinated-seeds.org.uk)

<u>Seed Sovereignty – A biodiverse and ecologically sustainable seed system</u> (seedsovereignty.info)

LONDON FREEDOM SEED BANK – A network of food growers and gardeners in London dedicated to saving, storing and sharing open-pollinated seed

## **SUPPLIERS**

<u>Seed Co-operative (seedcooperative.org.uk)</u>

Quality Vegetable Seeds from The Real Seed Catalogue UK. (realseeds.co.uk)

<u>Tamar Organics – Organic Seed & Garden</u> <u>Supplies</u>

DORKING ECO HUB

## **THANK YOU**

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