Seed Library Buzz

Open-pollination is when pollination occurs by wind or other natural pollinators to self or cross-pollinate, and need to be isolated from other varieties to produce seed that is true-to-type. This process can cause a greater amount of variation within plant populations, which allows plants to slowly adapt to local growing conditions and climate year to year.

Heirloom are generally open-pollinated plant varieties that are over 50 years old, and are traditionally passed down through generations. Heirloom seeds are old-time favorites that produce plants with the same traits every time they are planted.

Hybridization is a controlled method of pollination in which the pollen of two different species or varieties is crossed by human intervention.

The Seed Library Movement

People save, share and trade seeds for a host of different reasons from ideology to thriftiness. There are now over 500 seed sharing libraries over 46 states and 15 countries. Creating seed banks and repositories preserves locally adapted varieties, genetic diversity and increases the capacity of a community to feed itself.

Share Your Progress

We would love to see the fruits of your labor! Tag us on social media to share how your plants are doing:

Facebook @SMPubLib

Instagram @SantaMonicaLibr

TikTok @SantaMonicaLibrary

Twitter @SantaMonicaLibr

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC **LIBRARY**

City of **Santa Monica**

Welcome to our Seed Library!

The Montana Ave. Branch Library is proud to host the Santa Monica Seed Library, where we share bundles of donated seeds with local gardeners and aspiring green thumbs.

Our Mission

The mission is to support home and school gardeners, nurture locally adapted plant varieties and build community through seed sharing and home grown food. If members wish, they can donate their own seeds for others to borrow.

Montana Ave. Branch
1704 Montana Ave.
(310) 458-8600

How Do I Borrow Seeds?

Visit the Montana Ave. Branch during curbside pickup to receive a free seed bundle of your choice, which will include multiple seed varieties. You do not need to have a library card, although we encourage you to get one so you can access our extensive gardening resource collection.

Browse our bundle options at smpl.org/seed. Don't forget to check back regularly, as our inventory changes based on season and new donations.

Where Do the Seeds Come From?

Many of our seeds have been donated from reputable companies who provide non-GMO, open-pollinated or heirloom varieties. Other seeds are self-harvested by community members who have donated to our seed library.

We are grateful to the Seed Savers Exchange and Baker Creek Seeds for their generous donations to get our seed collection started.

How Do I Donate Seeds?

Once you have collected and preserved some open-pollinated plant seeds—not damp, buggy or moldy seeds—please bring them to the Montana Ave. Branch during curbside pickup and ask for assistance. We'll ask you to give us as much information as possible regarding the seed history, including the name, variety, harvest year, geographical location of plant seed, and any tips you have on growing or saving. We have supplies for storing and distributing the seeds, however it is best to keep them in a paper envelope of some kind—cool, dry, dark and well-labeled.
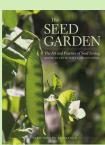
We are unable to accept hybrid seeds, since the hybrid plants will not necessarily produce plants like the parent plant and therefore cannot provide stability to our lending library.

Donations from commercial seed companies in their original packs are also welcome!

Learn About Seed Saving

Each amazing plant has its own seed with specific procedures on how to save and harvest. The Santa Monica Public Library has an ever-growing collection of gardening books for checkout.

We also recommend several websites, such as seedsavers.org and richmondgrows.com, for the bounty of knowledge they offer.

Just remember that experience is the best education. Keep good garden records. Let us know your interests. And don't worry if it takes time to get your garden growing.

We look forward to meeting you and helping you grow!