



GENERAL SEED SAVING PROTOCOLS

PLEASE SEE INDIVIDUAL PLANT CARDS FOR SPECIFIC SEED INFORMATION

GENERAL NOTES:

- When plants finish blooming, begin monitoring seeds for ripeness.
- Immature seeds are normally white or green and may germinate poorly.
- Look for seed and fruit changing to a dark color.
- Mature seed usually releases easily from the plant.
- The ideal time to collect from plants just before seed pods open or dispersal begins.
- Seed does not all ripen at the same time so multiple collections may be necessary.
- After initial collection, place the seed in paper bags or envelopes out of the sun and in a warm, dry place to lower the moisture content of the seed and fruit and to complete ripening.
- The seed will be ready to clean in about a week, then store in a glass jar in a cool, dark place until ready to stratify.



CLEANING TECHNIQUES(wear gloves and a mask):

- Shake fruit and seeds into a paper bag where they can dry and often release much of the seed from the fruit. For any unreleased seed, the seed pods may need to be gently crushed to release the seed.
- Monitor the seeds throughout this process to make sure they are not being damaged.
- Seed and chaff need to be separated by sieving, winnowing, or rolling round seeds down a sloped surface.

SEED SAVING PROTOCOLS *continued*

STORAGE STRATEGIES/SEED STRATIFICATION 101:

- Natural Stratification = Seeds that require stratification to germinate can be naturally stratified outdoors by sowing them in the ground or in flats kept outside during the season when the seed would naturally disperse.
- Artificial Stratification = Seeds requiring moist cool conditions can be artificially stratified by placing them in moist paper towels in a plastic bag in a refrigerator (39 - 40° F) for 2- 3 months. Monitor all stored seeds to make sure they do not become moldy. Seeds that do become moldy can be rinsed in a 10% bleach solution and placed in new paper towels.



Seeds photographed
on 1/4" graph paper