



## Seed Library Guidelines and Procedures

### Seed Library

The Poudre River Public Library District Seed Library, located at Old Town Library, will promote seed saving, seed sharing, and community participation in gardening. The Seed Library will focus on the following activities:

1. Establishing, growing, and curating a depository of fruit, vegetable, and herb seeds available to the community at no cost.
2. Providing information, instruction, and programming about sustainable gardening.

### Donation of Seeds

The Seed Library accepts donations of fruit, vegetable, and herb seeds from commercial seed companies, seed banks, individuals, and other local, partner organizations with a shared interest in seed collection. Donated seeds must be from open-pollinated, non-genetically modified, non-hybrid, and/or heirloom plants that are not listed as invasive species or noxious weeds by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The Library District reserves the right to refuse or to dispose of donated seeds that do not meet these criteria.

Donated seeds must include the following information, as available, prior to acceptance by the Library:

- Common name
- Year of harvest and location
- Seed saving technique (dry, wet, fermentation)
- Notes pertinent to the seeds

Donations may be made at the Seed Library's donation box.

### Organization of Seeds

Donated seeds will be sorted, packaged, and labeled by library staff or library partners volunteering to assist with the Seed Library project. Each seed packet label will include information about type of seed, growing information, level of difficulty to save seeds. Seeds will be kept at Old Town Library in a shelving location designated by the library.

## **Borrowing Seeds**

Community members may check out seeds by signing them out using the Seed Library Logbook binder near the Seed Library. Users are encouraged to only check out as many seeds as they need and to be mindful of other library customers.

## **Returning Seeds**

Seed Library users are encouraged to return at least twice the amount of seeds they originally borrowed. Seeds should be saved according to best practices, as explained in seed saving workshops offered by the Library District or by partnering organizations. Alternately, the Library District can recommend seed saving books or literature. Seeds should not be returned to the Seed Library unless the grower knows how to properly save them. Returned seeds should be dry and labeled clearly with information specified above in the Donation of Seed section.

## **Disposal of Seeds**

Seed packets may be disposed of as necessary due to age, exposure, contamination, report of problems, etc. The Library District reserves the right to cease the lending and borrowing of any variety of seed at any time. The Library District reserves the right to cease existence of the Seed Library at any time due to the needs of the Library.

## **Glossary**

**Open-pollinated:** Pollinated by natural means (insects or bats) and grown in isolation.

**Non-GMO:** Seeds that aren't genetically modified or copyrighted by an individual or organization.

**Non-hybrid:** Plants whose characteristics haven't been diminished over time through cross-breeding.

**Heirloom plants:** Seeds that produce plants with the same traits after multiple plantings.