

DRAFT Standards for Accepting & Retailing Vegetable, Fruit, and Flower Seeds

Purpose of these Standards

The purpose of this document is to develop a clear understanding of how Cape Ann Gardens, LLC (DBA Blue Sky Farm) is acquiring vegetable, fruit, and flower seeds; which varieties and from whom; and what our organization's role is in the seed-to-consumer pipeline, as well as the complex swirling politics and dynamics of any seed's stewardship chain.

These standards are based on best practices as outlined by existing thought leader experts – including community leaders and stewards not associated with universities or government agencies – practitioners, and credible sources on the topic of seed stewardship, collection, banking, distribution, and sales. Cape Ann Gardens values the opinions of organizations that bring together groups of people to generate work and outcomes that represent many different voices and experiences. Sources are linked directly in this document and are expected to be live.

These standards and practices will be revisited annually to ensure they are consistent with best practices, adhere to relevant state and federal regulations, and honor the inextricable link between seeds and the communities that tend them.

In general, we refer to the publications and resources made available by these organizations who have demonstrated a commitment to the practice of seed saving:

[Organic Seed Alliance](#)

Fedco

Terms and Definitions

“Seed producers/growers” - people, company, association, etc who are providing seeds of cultivated crops to Cape Ann Gardens, LLC for the purpose of reselling.

“Seed bank” or “banking” - the act of preserving seed by depositing it in a central location under the stewardship of an organization tasked with preserving the integrity of the genetics and the seeds saved in that location.

“Lot” - seed collection from plants within a specific geographic parameter

The Intention of Selling Seeds

Our intention in this process is to

The Description of the Seeds for Sale & Resale

Cape Ann Gardens, LLC/Blue Sky Farm is soliciting seeds from growers across the northeastern United States (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont) who can attest to their ability to sell seed and provide seed to someone else for the purpose of selling it.

Cape Ann Gardens, LLC/Blue Sky Farm targets varieties of edibles and ornamentals that are not patented or genetically modified, are open-pollinated, and are easy to grow directly from seeds sown in the garden (rather than started indoors).

Grower's Declaration

We request a Grower's Declaration be completed and submitted by each grower along with each crop variety. This document attests to the quality, origin, and ability of the grower to sell and receive money for the seed, as well as distribute it to people who will, in turn, then sell the seed and receive money for it.

You can take a look at our Grower's Declaration here: *[link coming soon]*

Our Attribution & Stewardship Standards

We recognize that the seeds we are selling to the public are descendants of seeds originally cultivated for a specific set of characteristics and attributes. There are a slew of factors that impact these traits, which can result in drastic evolution from the “original” understanding of the crop. In light of this, we acknowledge stewardship chains on packets, and describe which plants were selected based on which characteristics.

In instances where the original seed was preserved for a different set of characteristics or attributes, we have noted that on the seed packet. In some instances, we may acknowledge the name of the original seed and perhaps give it another name. In either case, voluntary royalties (10% gross revenue of the seed sales) is distributed to breeders, local rematriation organizations, and/or other seed producers. It can be both incredibly easy and

nuanced to distribute these royalties. In recognition of this, these distributions are specific to each variety and decided in collaboration with the grower.

Labeling and Distribution

Seed packets are labeled according to federal and state regulations for sale and distribution in Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island. Packets are updated for compliance with additional state regulations as additional seed licenses are acquired.

We include germination rates for varieties as required by laws and regulations for seed sales at the scale appropriate for home gardeners.

Seed packets include the following information, in addition to the information required by law:

- Identity of the grower
- Where grown
- What traits the grower selected for
- From whom seed was received
- From whom that seed originated

We are committed to recording as much information about a seed's stewardship chain as necessary in the spirit of full transparency and retaining information about how seeds were selected, and the characteristics of each variety preserved from harvest to harvest. This not only provides growers with valuable information, but reflects a greater understanding of the crop.

General References

Organic Seed Alliance's [*A Guide to Seed Intellectual Property Rights*](#)