Seed Saving Poster Guidelines (Video explanation)

- ☐ Size: 8.5x11, 11 x 17, A4, or A3
- ☐ Focus on one of the following species: common beans, peas, lettuce, or tomatoes
- ☐ Click on the link to go to the specific crop information to include:
    - Peas
    - Beans
    - Lettuce
    - Tomatoes
- ☐ Include license-free images of the seed saving process. We have a Flickr album you can use.
- ☐ If you don't use our images or your own, keep track of the sources of the images.
- ☐ You are encouraged to use Canva to create posters, but you can use any platform.
- ☐ No branding (If you brand but still want to share, please do so. However, your submission will be excluded from the incentive of being randomly selected to get seeds for your seed library, but it still can be shared on our website for the benefit of others.)
- ☐ The Great American Seed Up is offering some mixed seed bundles for a few randomly selected entries submitted by. Sorry, they can only ship to US seed libraries, but we appreciate all entries. For every entry your name will be submitted once. **Posters in languages besides English will be considered as two submissions** when we select seed recipients.
- ☐ Upload files via this Airtable form.

Poster Idea #1: Seed Saving Guidelines

The language doesn't need to be identical but these are the general ideas to communicate:

- Save seeds from open-pollinated or heirloom varieties. Avoid saving commercial hybrids (often labeled as "F1") to get plants that come out "true to type" to the original parent. Some commercial hybrids are bred to produce sterile seeds.
- Keep good records. Make note of the common name, variety, year harvested, and any other important characteristics such as uses, description, and disease-resistance.
- Save from as many plants as you can. You will get viable seeds from one plant in the case of self-pollinating plants like lettuce, tomatoes, peas, and beans, but it is better to save from multiple plants to preserve genetic diversity in the variety.
- Healthy plants produce healthy seeds. Save seeds from plants that are disease-free. Collect from plants that show the characteristics of the variety (ex. shape, color).
- Seeds need to be dry and free of debris for best storage. At a bare minimum packets need to have the common name, variety name, and year harvested.

Poster Idea #2: Specific crop information

Peas

Pisum sativum

- Save seeds from open-pollinated, heirloom varieties, or landrace mixes. Do not save commercial hybrids (“F1”), anything labeled PVP (Plant Variety Protection), or GMO. Some commercial hybrids are bred to produce sterile seeds.
- Let the pods dry completely on the vine. Shell and put in a labeled glass container in the freezer for one week to kill weevil eggs. (Don’t open the jar for 24 hours after removing it from the fridge to prevent condensation on the seeds.)
- For long term storage, make sure the container is well labeled: common name, variety, year harvest, type of pea (shelling, snap, snow) and any other important information.
- Recommended Population Size: 25 (It’s okay to save from fewer as you will get viable seeds. Also, together, in community, we can save the recommended population size.)
- Strategies to prevent cross-pollination:
    - Extremely self-pollinating = most likely come out like the parent even if other varieties of pea are located nearby
    - Plant one variety of pea
    - Plant varieties 20 feet apart or as far apart as you can manage on your land
- Include photos of peas drying on plant
- To clean seeds: remove seeds from pod
- Expected seed life: 3-4 years

Common Beans

Phaseolus vulgaris

- Save seeds from open-pollinated, heirloom varieties, or landrace mixes. Do not save commercial hybrids (“F1”), anything labeled PVP (Plant Variety Protection), or GMO. Some commercial hybrids are bred to produce sterile seeds.
- Let the pods dry completely on the plant. Shell and put in a labeled glass container in the freezer for one week to kill weevil eggs. (Don’t open the jar for 24 hours after removing it from the fridge to prevent condensation on the seeds.)
- For long term storage, make sure the container is well labeled: common name, variety, year harvest, type of bean (soup, shelly, green) and any other important information.
- Recommended Population Size: 10 (It’s okay to save from fewer as you will get viable seeds from 1 plant. In community, we can save the recommended population size.)
- Strategies to prevent cross-pollination:
    - Extremely self-pollinating = most likely come out like the parent even if other varieties of bean are located nearby
    - Plant one variety of common bean
    - Plant varieties 20 feet apart or as far apart as you can manage on your land
- Include photos of beans drying on plant
- To clean seeds: remove seeds from pod
- Expected seed life: 3-4 years

Lettuce

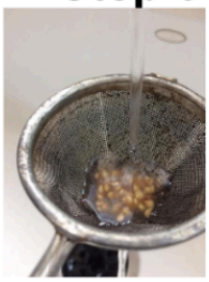
Lactuca sativa

- Save seeds from open-pollinated, heirloom varieties, or landrace mixes. Do not save commercial hybrids (“F1”), anything labeled PVP (Plant Variety Protection), or GMO. Some commercial hybrids are bred to produce sterile seeds.
- Let the plant bolt. When half of the flowers are dry and fluffy, cut off the stem and place upside down in a paper bag with “lettuce”, the variety name and year written on it. In about a month, the plants will be dry and the seed will be ready to clean.
- Recommended Population Size: 10 (It’s okay to save from fewer as you will get viable seeds from 1 plant. In community, we can save the recommended population size.)
- Strategies to prevent cross-pollination:
    - Extremely self-pollinating = most likely come out like the parent even if other varieties of lettuce are located nearby
    - Plant one variety of lettuce
    - Plant varieties 20 feet apart or as far apart as you can manage on your land
- You can also save a lettuce mix and share it as a mix
- Include photos of lettuce bolting and seeds ready to harvest on plant (fluffy flowerheads)
- Expected Seed Life: 6 years
- To clean seeds: you can rub the seed heads between your fingers to remove the seeds. Go outside Get a deep bowl and lift some of the seeds a bit above the bowl and gently drop. You can also winnow seeds. (Photos in Flickr.)

Tomatoes

Solanum lycopersicum

- Save seeds from open-pollinated, heirloom varieties, or landrace mixes. Do not save commercial hybrids (“F1”), PVP (Plant Variety Protection), or GMO seeds.
- Cut fully ripe tomatoes and squeeze seeds into a labeled bowl. Add a little water. Let the seeds ferment for 1-3 days (This removes the gel coat that inhibits germination.). Add water and viable seeds will sink to the bottom. Discard any pulp and floating seeds. Put on a labeled plate to dry. (Look at the photo below for an abbreviated explanation. Note: 1-3 days instead of 2-3 days)
- Viable seeds: 1 plant; Recommended Population Size: 5-10
- Strategies to prevent cross-pollination:
    - Extremely self-pollinating = most likely come out like the parent even if other varieties of tomatoes are located nearby
    - Plant one variety of tomato
    - Plant varieties 10-20 feet apart or as far apart as you can manage on your land
- Include photos of squeezing seeds in a labeled bowl, fermenting seeds, decanting (pouring off) and seeds drying on a labeled plate. Photo of process (NOTE: 1-3 days is good for fermenting.) It’s good to add a little water to the bowl in step 1.

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
			
Make label & squeeze pulp from ripe tomato into a bowl.	Let sit for 2-3 days to let mold form.	Add water. Rinse. Decant.	Dry on plate.

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- Seed life: 4-6 years