

Save the Seeds!

Fun Seed Facts:

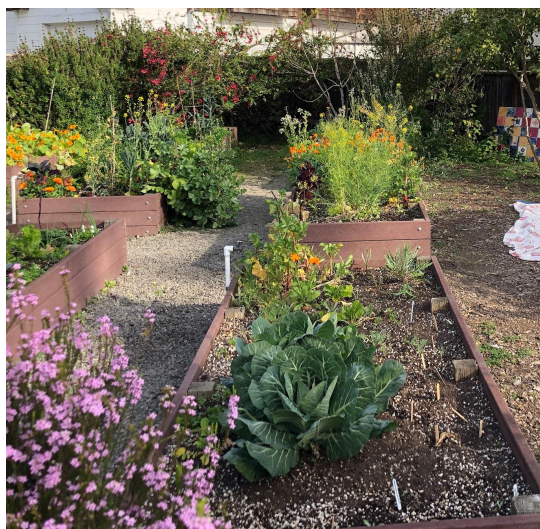


Small: The smallest seed in the world is that of an orchid. They are so tiny, they feel like dust. There are about 1 million seeds in 1 gram (the weight of one paperclip).

[Photo](#)



Large: The largest seed is that of the Coco de Mer (sea coconut), which can weigh up to 60 lbs. They can take 2 years to *germinate* (begin to grow).



Collard Greens (in center)



Stalks with flowers and seed pods (and a bee!)

Why Save Seeds?

1. Free seeds for next year!
2. When vegetables and flowers “go to seed” they make flowers, which provide food for pollinators like butterflies, bees, moths, beetles, and others.
3. Preserve history- some families have seeds from plants that have been passed through generations. **Fact:** *Seed saving has been around for 10,000 years!*

What kind of seeds to save?

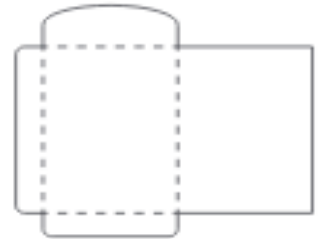
The easiest seeds to save are: *tomato, cucumber, wildflowers, kale, peas/beans, and lettuce*. You can also save pumpkin and other squash and melon seeds, but you might not grow the exact same plant. Try to find seeds that are *heirloom* (same seed for 50+ years) and not hybrid (cross between two types of specific vegetable).

**If you don't have a garden, seeds can be collected while on a hike or walk around the neighborhood- look for maple seeds, acorns, spent (dead-looking) wildflower heads and other seed pods.*

How to Save Seeds:

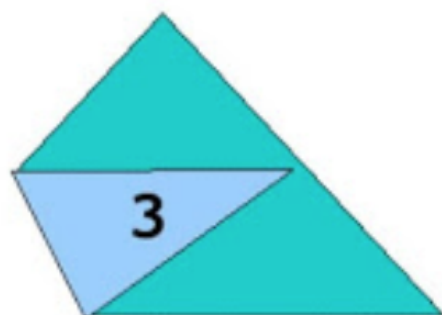
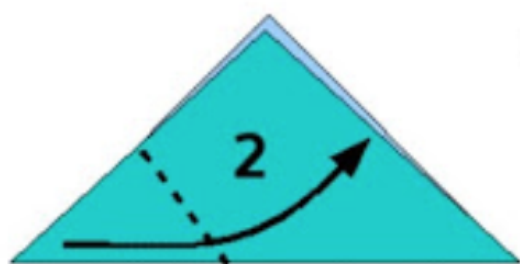
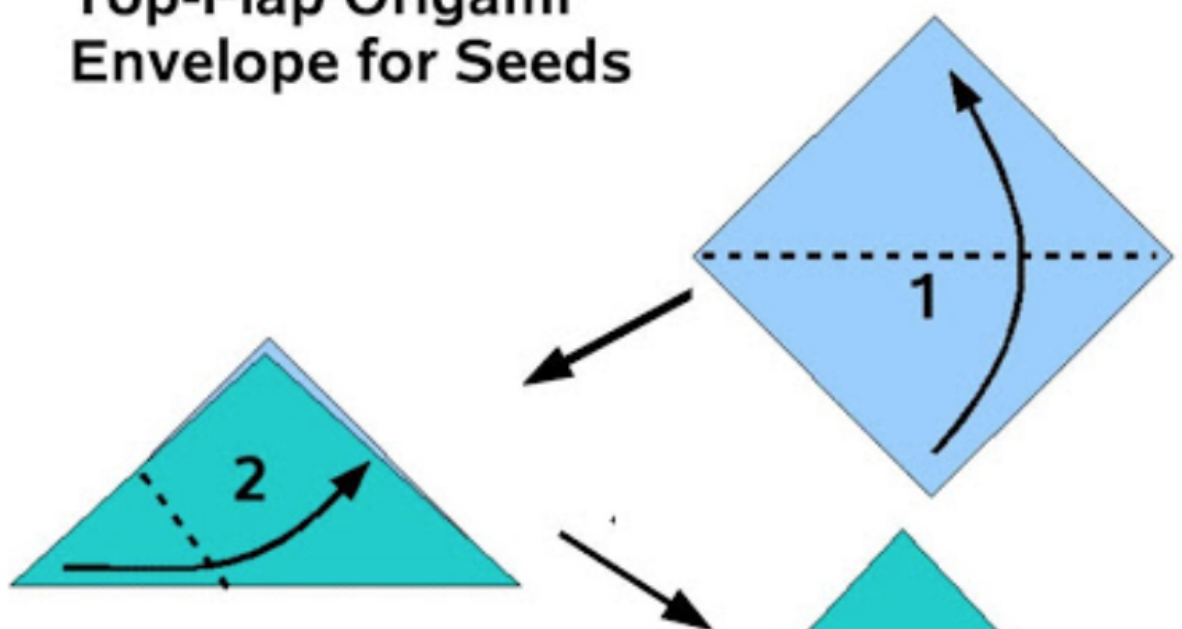
Plant	How	Process and Preserve
Beans and Peas	Leave in pods until they rattle	Break apart pod and spread them out to dry
Pepper	From a fresh pepper	Scrape out seeds and spread them on a paper towel to dry (a few days >week)
Tomato	From ripe fruit, squeeze seeds into a bowl	Add seeds to water and stand at room temperature 3-4 days, stir a few times per day. When they sink to the bottom, spread out to dry
Lettuce	Plant will send up a stalk with a flower	Place a paper bag over the stalk and hang upside down. Seeds will drop into the bag.
Collards and Kale	Plant will send up a stalk with a flower, after flowers are gone a pod forms	Cut the stalks and hang upside down to dry (1-2 weeks). See Video.
Flowers-calendula, poppies, marigold, nasturtium, daisies	Gather the seeds once the flowers have wilted and pods appear dry	Separate the pod/chaff by hand or crumbling in hand or shaking.

**PRINTABLE
SEED PACKETS**

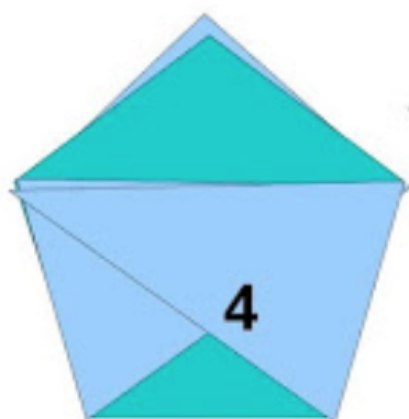


- CUT OUT FORM
- SCORE & FOLD ALONG DOTTED LINES;
- GLUE BOTTOM & LEFT TAB OVER BACK SIDE;
- LEAVE TOP TAB OPEN;
- WRITE PLANT NAME, DATE, AND ANY GROWING INSTRUCTIONS ON PACKAGE

Top-Flap Origami Envelope for Seeds



Fold over one corner so top edge is parallel to bottom edge.



Fold over other corner.
Fill the envelope.



Fold two free tips at top into the pocket formed by the outside flap.