Welcome to The Metuchen Seed Library
At The Metuchen Public Library

Current Inventory

Our seeds at The Metuchen Seed Library are untreated or organic, non-hybrid, and free for the community. Seeds currently in stock are shown below. Inventory will be updated periodically by library staff and Seed Library volunteers. Since seeds are constantly being donated and taken, this inventory is always changing and may not be 100% up-to-date. Thank you for your understanding.

UPDATED JULY 7, 2026
THE SEED LIBRARY IS CLOSED FOR THE 2026 GROWING SEASON!

General information for this collection
Plant common name, variety, scientific name (as available)
Heirloom = **HL**
Organic = **O**
Growing instructions may be provided, but this is not guaranteed. If growing instructions are not provided, please search online for your information or check out a book from our library's garden books collection.

Plant specific information
Bush/climbing (flowers), Bush/Pole (beans), Determinate/indeterminate (tomatoes)
Annual = **A;** Biennial = **B;** Perennial = **P**
Native plants = **Native,** Deer Resistant = **DR;** Bird favorite = **Birds**;
Plants that help pollinators = **Pollinator**

A Vocabulary Index can be found at the end of this Seed Inventory.

FLOWERS

Growing Instructions - Native flowers only:

Seed Propagation Instructions:
https://www.prairienursery.com/media/pdf/seed-propagation.pdf

How to Germinate Native Seeds:
https://www.prairiemoon.com/blog/germination

Common Name, Variety	***Scientific name***	**Plant Specific Information**

HERBS

Common Name, Variety	***Scientific name***	**Plant Specific Information**

VEGETABLES & FRUITS:

Common Name, Variety	***Scientific name***	**Plant Specific Information**

MISCELLANEOUS: Grains, Trees, Shrubs, & More

Common Name, Variety	***Scientific name***	**Plant Specific Information**

PLANT VOCABULARY

Annual- Annual plants complete their growing cycle within 1 year, then die.

Biennial- Biennial plants complete their growing cycle in 2 years, then die.

Cold Stratification- A process in which seeds are germinated in a cold space to copy how they would naturally overwinter in the wild before sprouting again next spring. Easiest to put seeds in a small bag with a wet paper towel, and leave in the fridge for the plants' directed amount of

time. Outdoor any other techniques can be found at https://www.prairienursery.com/media/pdf/seed-propagation.pdf

Deadheading- Refers to removing dead or dying blooms from flower plants, to encourage more blooms to grow. It's easiest to pinch or cut the stem right below the wilting bloom.

Frost- It frosts over the period of time where the weather is below freezing at night. Cold sensitive plants will be killed if planted during a time of year that frosts.

Germinate- Germination is the process of seeds sprouting and growing into plants.

Germination rate- This is the amount of seeds that sprout in a controlled test. If I test ten seeds and only 5 sprout, the germination rate is 50%. This information will be on seed packets when the date of harvest is unknown.

Heirloom- Heirloom refers to a stable variety of plant, which means it will produce the exact same plant from its seeds. Seeds that are not heirloom will not necessarily grow the same type of plant. Heirloom plants can be pollinated without getting crossbred.

Microgreens- Vegetable greens that are harvested right after the first few leaves develop. Used to add flavor and texture to many dishes.

Organic- Organic plants or seeds are grown without artificial pesticides or fertilizers.

Perennial- Perennials are plants with a life cycle longer than 3 years.

Thinning- Thinning is the practice of pulling out extra sprouts after they've come up, and are growing too close to each other. Thin sprouts so there's a couple inches in between each sprout, or however each specific plant dictates. Thinning is an important part of growing from seeds; your sprouts will stop growing bigger if they become overcrowded.

Untreated seed - Seed that is clean and has not been treated using any chemical, biological, or physical method.

A huge thank you to Red Bank Seed Library for generously providing the format and general content for this document.