



The logo features a stylized green plant with three leaves growing from a brown seed. The plant is positioned above the word "Seedlibrary". The word "Seed" is written in a green, cursive font, while "library" is in a brown, sans-serif font.

Seedlibrary

Borrowing seeds

- A library card is not required to borrow seeds.
- Visit a branch to see available seed varieties. You can find our seed library bins at all RWL branches.
- Borrow up to five packets. Fill out the check-out sheet to record which seeds you have taken.

Growing and saving seeds

Selecting Seeds

- **Easy seeds:** Some plants are easy to grow. These plants produce seeds even if you only grow one plant. Easy seeds include beans, peas, lettuce, and tomatoes.
- **Intermediate seeds:** Some plants are a little more challenging. They're harder to grow from seed, don't produce as much seed, or are more likely to cross-pollinate. Intermediate seeds include basil, eggplant, and peppers.



- **Advanced seeds:** Some plants are best for experienced seed-savers, or people who like a challenge! They're wind or insect pollinated, only produce seeds in the second year, or are very likely to cross-pollinate with other plants in the same family. Advanced seeds include cabbage, broccoli, kale, beets, and parsley.

Growing plants

- Some seeds need to be started indoors.
 - 🌸 Start these seeds in good quality potting soil near a bright window.
 - 🌸 Before moving seedlings outdoors, harden off the seedlings for, at minimum, one week. Take them outside starting with a few hours everyday, increasing the number of hours outside until you're ready to transplant. This exposes them to wind and sun, and helps toughen them up.
 - 🌸 Examples include tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, and cabbage.
- Other seeds can be planted directly outside.
 - 🌸 Examples include lettuce, beans, and carrots.
- Plant similar plants far apart to avoid cross-pollination.



- In small spaces, only grow one variety of each plant. For example, only grow one type of brassica or one type of pepper.
- In larger spaces, keep varieties separated. For example, grow one type in your front yard, and one type in your backyard.
- When plants cross-pollinate, the seeds will grow a new type of plant. If you think this might have happened to your seeds, let us know when you return them to the library. We can let future gardeners know that they're getting "mystery seeds."

Harvesting seeds

- Always choose seeds from the healthiest, strongest plants.
- Seeds that have pods or husks can be left to dry on the plants. When they are dry, break or smash the pods, then pick out the seeds.
- Wet seeds, such as tomatoes, cucumbers, or melons, need to be washed thoroughly, and then spread flat to dry. Stir the seeds often to stop mold from growing.
- If you have questions about saving seeds from your plants, library staff can help you find gardening resources.



What is RWL's Seed Library?

The Seed Library is a free service for patrons of the Region of Waterloo Library, which hopes to foster well-being through gardening and sharing the diversity of our community resources.

Borrow seeds from the library and plant them at your home. At the end of the growing season, collect seeds from a few plants and return them to the library. Then next season, pick up more seeds to grow! The RWL Seed Library includes heirloom vegetables, herbs, and flowers to offer a selection to our gardening patrons.



Returning/donating seeds

- Donate at least one packet of new seeds back to the library.
- Seed envelopes are available at the library if needed.
- Seeds donated should be labelled with as much information as possible.

Please include:


- ✿ Common Name
 - ✿ Scientific Name
 - ✿ Variety
 - ✿ Location of harvest
 - ✿ If seeds are heirloom/open-pollinated
 - ✿ Date of harvest
 - ✿ Any other notes
- If all of this information is not available, that's okay!

The Seed Library relies on donations. If you have any extra seeds from your garden, feel free to donate as many as you wish.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to and participates in RWL's Seed Library. For more information on growing and saving seeds, [check out more great resources at our library.](#)



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