

Seed Savers Unite!!

Seed Library Basics



What IS a Seed Library, Where might you find one, and What IS its purpose?

- ▶ A seed library is a place where local citizens can access free, or sometimes minimum cost, seeds.
- ▶ You might find seed libraries in public libraries, as part of a community organization such as Master Gardeners, or both!
- ▶ For some communities, helping citizens garden and grow some of their own food is the focus.
- ▶ For other communities, seed libraries may be created:
 - ▶ *as an important step to develop a network of seed savers,*
 - ▶ *to preserve locally adapted varieties,*
 - ▶ *to respond proactively to climate change or loss of gene integrity due to GMOs or to preserve genetic diversity.*

Seed Libraries - All shapes & sizes!!



How do you use a Seed Library?

- ▶ Do you need a 'Library Card' to check out seeds?
 - ▶ Typically, no 'card' is needed to check out but you will probably be asked to record what seeds you took.
- ▶ What type of seeds might I find?
 - ▶ Veggies, Herbs, Flowers, potentially some bulbs
- ▶ Is there a limit to how many seeds I get?
 - ▶ Different libraries have different rules. Some seed libraries limit the number of seed packets per visit. Others may let you take as many as you want.
- ▶ Is there a cost for the seeds?
 - ▶ Again, typically the answer is no cost to the user. But, it's always a good rule to ask and avoid embarrassment!
- ▶ What if I have seeds I want to donate?
 - ▶ In most instances forms are available to complete and attach to your seed donation. The form will ask questions such as name, variety, year of collection. There will also be personal questions such as the collections name/contact info, what county was seed grown in, etc. Nothing illegal may be donated.

Local Seed Libraries

- ▶ Big Country Master Gardeners/Taylor County Extension Office - Opening Sept 2022
- ▶ Potential: Abilene Public Library, Downtown Branch - 2023