

Welcome to the World of Saving and Sharing Seeds!

The seeds you borrow from the Seed Library of Pima County Public Library are lent to you at no financial cost, and they are priceless.

A commitment to growing plants from seeds is a gift to yourself. We hope you learn much, experience the joy of gardening, and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

At harvest time, please take some extra steps to save seeds for others. We ask that a portion of the seeds you save from the strongest, tastiest, and most vigorous plants be returned to the Seed Library to keep the library self-sustaining. The more seeds in the library, the more members of our community can experience the joys of growing their own food. Seed Library users will not be penalized if they are unable to return seeds back to the Seed Library at the end of the season; we understand that seed saving is new to many of our community members.

Why Save Seeds?

Humans have been saving seeds for over 12,000 years. However, in our culture much of that knowledge, along with significant biodiversity has been lost over the last hundred years. When you grow and save your own seeds, you

- develop seed stock that is well suited to our climate
- save money

When you participate in the seed library, you create a culture of sharing and abundance.

Interested in Helping Out?

We are always looking for volunteers to help with:

- Facilitating or helping with seed sorting and repacking
- Facilitating or helping with seed saving workshops
- Mentoring new gardeners and seed savers
- Facilitating or helping with Seed Library orientations
- Plus many more opportunities!

Or, if you are interested in helping guide the course of the Seed Library, please consider being a part of the **Seed Library Community Advisory Group**.

For more information, please contact us at: 791-4010.

Welcome to the Seed Library of Pima County Public Library



The Seed Library's mission is to help nurture a thriving community of gardeners and seed savers. In addition to providing access to free seeds, we hope to help support gardeners and seed savers, from beginner to expert, through the process of growing, harvesting, and seed saving. Through our partnerships with community organizations such as Native Seeds/SEARCH, the Community Food Bank, and the UA Cooperative Extension's Master Gardeners, we will offer a variety of free gardening and seed saving programs throughout the year.

The Seed Library is located in five branches:

Flowing Wells Library: 594-5225
Himmel Park Library: 594-5305
Joel Valdez Main Library: 594-5500
Quincie Douglas Library: 594-5335
Salazar-Ajo Library: (520) 387-6075

For more information, please visit our webpage: www.library.pima.gov or contact the Library's Infoline at 791-4010



New to Seed Saving?

First, read the Seed Library of Pima County Public Library brochure, "[How to Save Seeds](#)." Then, start with seeds that are labeled "[easy](#)." These seeds are great for beginners and produce plants like the ones you planted.

We recommend you start with these:

- basil
- beans
- beets
- carrots
- chard
- eggplant
- leeks
- lettuce
- onions
- parsley
- peas
- peppers
- spinach
- sunflowers
- tomatoes

The seeds that are labeled "[medium](#)" and "[advanced](#)" require special planning to preserve varietal purity. If certain precautions are not taken with them, then the next grower will not get the same plant. We want to ensure that the seeds that you return to the library are indeed what they claim to be. So please borrow "[medium](#)" and "[advanced](#)" seeds only after you have learned about isolating plants to prevent cross-pollination.

How to Find Seeds

The seeds are organized into three categories; easy, medium, and advanced. This refers to the seed saving aspect of each plant, not the growing ease or difficulty of the plant. If you are new to seed saving, we recommend you start with seeds in the "[easy](#)" drawers.

Within the easy, medium, and advanced categories, the seeds are arranged alphabetically by common name and then alphabetically by variety. For example:

- Common name: Beet

- Variety: Bull's Blood

You can browse the seed drawers to see what's available or by searching the Library's catalog online. You can search using such keywords as:

- Common name (e.g., Beets)
- Variety (e.g., Bull's Blood)
- Scientific name (e.g., Beta Vulgaris)
- "seed library"
- "heirloom seeds"

Seed availability is subject to change and is on a first come, first serve basis. If you don't find what you're looking for this season, we encourage you to check back next year. Over time, the seed saving efforts of our community members will enable the Seed Library's collection to grow and become more resilient and adapted to our desert climate.

How to Borrow Seeds

Once you've found your seeds, you will need to check them out. These can be checked out with your Pima County Public Library card just as you would any other library material. They do count against total items checked out on your account.

Most of the seed packets contain enough seeds to grow at least two to three plants and each successful plant has the potential to produce an abundant harvest (and thus, many seeds). Because what is available has come to you through donation, supplies are limited so we ask that you borrow no more than 6 seed packets at a time.

You don't need to worry about due dates or overdue fines with your seeds. Seeds checked out on your account will automatically be checked-in off of your account. We hope that

you will be successful in your seed saving endeavors and will return a portion of the seeds harvested back to the Seed Library, keeping a portion for yourself.

How to Donate and Return Seeds

First, read the Seed Library of Pima County Public Library brochure, "[How to Save Seeds](#)." *It is important that seeds coming back in to the collection are saved properly to ensure that the purity of each variety remains intact.*

Once you have collected seed from your easy-to-save crops, set aside some for yourself and some for the library in clearly-labeled envelopes or containers.

Seeds for the library should be in envelopes labeled with the **Seed Donation Slip**. Donation slips can be downloaded from the library's website or found at the library.

Bring your labeled seeds to any of the Pima County Public Library branches; we will process them and add them back into the collection, ready for others to borrow.

Thanks for saving seeds!

Learn More

- Visit www.library.pima.gov/seed-library
- Find books and classes on seed saving at the library
- Join the forum on www.seedsavers.org
- Enable the "reading history" on your library account to help you keep track of the seeds you have borrowed