



Zinnia

Our Seed Library is about...

- ✿ Encouraging our community to experience the joys of gardening
- ✿ Educating our community about growing, harvesting, and saving seeds
- ✿ Reconnecting our community to the traditions of growing healthy, delicious food
- ✿ Nurturing a culture of sharing and abundance
- ✿ Building a local collection of desert-adapted seeds for our community

Devil's Claw Seeds



Many seeds shared by the Seed Library were grown by community members with love and care like our ancestors have done for thousands of years, please know they may not meet state germination or labeling standards. We do not knowingly accept or share any seeds that are chemically treated, patented, or genetically modified.

Our Vision & Mission:

Our vision is a community that grows vibrantly healthy together.

The **Seed Library's** mission is to provide equitable access to seeds, knowledge, and opportunities for our community to learn, engage, and connect.


The practice of saving seeds has been around for more than 12,000 years. Today, seed saving helps us to develop stronger seeds that are better adapted to our unique desert climate and soils. It also saves us money! Because seed saving is part of our heritage and traditions, it is one way we can come together as a community. When we grow food together our community grows. That's why Pima County Public Library started the Seed Library in January 2012.

Questions?

Contact us at **Seed.Library@pima.gov**

Find us at:

 library.pima.gov/seedlibrary

 @PimaSeedLibrary



Sweet Basil

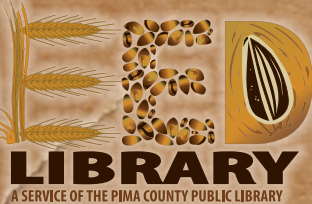


Sunflower

Borrow Seeds

from the

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



LIBRARY
A SERVICE OF THE PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Step 1: Select Seeds

Browse seeds in person

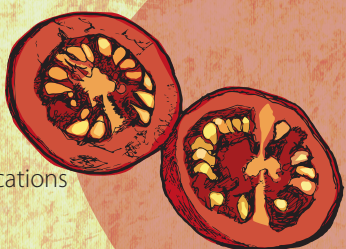
- ✱ Visit any of our Seed Library locations in person to browse for seeds.

Online

- ✱ Search for seeds using the online catalog.
- ✱ Place seeds on reserve for pick-up at your local library branch.
- ✱ To view an alphabetical list of available seeds: **Type "Seed Library" in the *subject* search field and sort by "title."**
- ✱ To search for a specific seed: **Type "Seed Library" and the type of seed in the *keyword* search field (example: Seed Library tomato).**
- ✱ To search for seeds by planting month: **Type "Seed Library" and the month into the *keyword* search field (example: Seed Library January).**

A note on "Easy" or "Advanced" Seeds

- ✱ **Easy Seeds** are **less likely to cross-pollinate** with other plants in the same family and are best suited for those who are just learning to save seeds.
- ✱ **Advanced Seeds** are **very likely to cross-pollinate** with other plant varieties, resulting in "mystery" plants. These seeds are best suited for more advanced seed savers.
- ✱ Feel free to try growing any seed that interests you. We all learn by trying new things. When growing to save seed, please try to match the seed saving difficulty with your gardening expertise.



Cherry Tomatoes

Step 2: Check Out Seeds

All you need is a current PCPL library card. Seeds can be checked out just as you would check out any other library materials. Please scan the barcode on the seed package to check out seeds. You may check out up to 10 packets each month. Seeds will be removed from your library account long before the due date.



Chives

Step 3: Saving Seeds

The seeds you borrow from the PCPL Seed Library are free, and yet they are priceless. We hope you learn a lot as you experience the joys of gardening and seed saving. When we save seeds, we are passing on the genetic qualities of the plant that provided the seeds. That's why it's important that we save seeds from plants that grew healthy and strong.

Once you're ready to try your hand at saving seeds, we recommend you check out these helpful seed saving resources to guide you in your learning:

- ✱ *The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Seed Saving* by Colley, Micaela

- ✱ *Seed to Seed: Seed Saving and Growing Techniques for Vegetable Gardeners* by Ashworth, Suzanne

- ✱ *Saving Seeds in the Southwest: Techniques for Seed Stewardship in Aridlands* by Hought, Joy

- ✱ Seed saving workshops at the library or elsewhere in the community

Step 4: Sharing Seeds

By saving seeds as a community, we help create local seed stocks that are better acclimated to our desert climate. We're happy to accept donations of your open-pollinated, heirloom, and/or locally saved seeds in any quantity. Just follow these easy steps:

- ✱ Collect and clean seeds from your healthiest and most successful crops, setting aside some for yourself and some for the library.

- ✱ Need seed cleaning screens? You can check them out from the Seed Library, too!

- ✱ Bring your labeled seeds to any PCPL branch and we'll add them to the collection for other community members to check out.

- ✱ *Seeds saved from grocery store produce are not suitable for the*

Seed Library. Please put them in your compost bin instead.

- ✱ Place each seed variety in a clearly labeled envelope or container, include a donation slip, and be sure to tell us something about the crop—how it grew, how it tasted, how you used it, etc. The more information you provide, the better we can track the success of our local seed stories. Donation Slips are available at any Seed Library location or on the library website.



Desert Marigold