

Seed Libraries



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[Description \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)

- **Welcome!**
- **We are delighted you have decided to join us on this adventure of seed starting!**
- The Dallas County Seed Library is hosted by Dallas County Master Gardeners.
- **You can find seed libraries at the following locations:**
***please note during winter the hutches outside will not be stocked**
- **Adel Public Library (inside)** - 303 South 10th St, Adel
- **Dallas County Extension Office** - 28059 Fairground Rd, Adel
- **Fruitful Vine Garden** - Westview Church, Waukee (hutch near gardens entrance)

- **Granger Public Library (inside)** - 2200 Walnut St, Granger (inside the community center)
- **Minburn Public Library (inside)** - 618 5th St, Minburn

- **Perry Public Library (inside)** - 1101 Willis Ave, Perry
- **Redfield Public Library (inside)** - 1112 Thomas St, Redfield

- **Waukee Family YMCA (inside)** - 210 N Warrior Ln, Waukee

- **Grimes Public Library (inside; started by Girl Scout Troop 457)** - 200 N. James St. Grimes



- **What is a Seed Library?**

- A seed library is a collection of “open-pollinated,” heirloom seeds that you can borrow to plant and grow your own food, herbs, and flowers at home. After your plants mature and “go to seed,” you save the seeds and return them to the library so they can be shared with others. This practice helps preserve heirloom seeds and natives fit for our neighborhoods.
- Want to see what we have? (Locations not specified*) <https://bit.ly/seedslist>
- We’re a Cooperative Gardens Commission Seed Hub! Check out their website for lots of good information on starting seeds and gardening. <https://www.coopgardens.org/>
- **Why is seed saving important?**
- Today’s gardeners are returning to the seed-saving tradition, when harvesting and protecting the previous year’s seeds was essential to providing the next year’s crop. Seed saving creates a seed stock well-suited to our central Iowa climate. The plants are more cold hardy, pest and disease-resistant, and growers save money on their seeds and plants, all while sharing with your community!

- **Do I have to return seeds?**
- We encourage donations back to the Seed Library, but you are under no obligation when you receive seeds from our library. We want you to learn the basics of gardening and seed saving, first. You can also share extras from packets you've purchased or save seeds from what's already growing in your own garden. Thank you for helping our seed library continue to grow.
- **Want to donate seeds?** Please include the following information on the packets: type, variety, year and town harvested, and original source of seeds. If you'd like to offer more information that can be included in our online file, email mwill@iastate.edu. This information can include years/generations saved at this location, any notes such as maturity, sun exposure, spacing, germination or even recipes!

- **First time saving seeds?**
- Try these easier 'selfers' plants to save seeds. These are self-pollinating (minimal crossing) and pretty straightforward to save. Self pollinating means you can have multiple varieties nearby and those seeds will be true to that parent plant (of course, never say never!)
 - Peas & Beans - leave the pods on the plant to dry; then pick and shell!
 - Lettuce - lettuces 'bolt' into a tall stem with fluffy seed tufts on top (similar to dandelion fluff), the little black seeds are connected to the fluff
 - Peppers - scrape off those seeds that are connected to the stem top when you cut up your ripe red peppers and allow to dry
 - Tomatoes - squeeze the seed goo into a small jar, cover, and let sit for a few days until it molds, then remove mold rinse and dry seeds.
- [Seed Saving](#) [Seed Starting](#)
- Leave a review or comment <https://forms.gle/gxGEpBVHZZ2E3SfG7> or by QR →
- Looking for others to connect with in the area? Join the Community Seed Network through Seed Savers Exchange to find fellow seed savers._
- Have questions email Megan Will at: mwill@iastate.edu

- **Seed Libraries in Iowa must follow the following regulations:**
 1. The exchanges or distributions are made at a single location and no money is exchanged;
 2. All seed is intended for planting in Iowa;
 3. Individuals receive two pounds or less of seed annually;
 4. The seed has not been treated with pesticide;
 5. Patented, protected or propriety varieties of seed are used or included in the qualified seed library only with the permission of the patent or certificate holder, developer or owner of the intellectual property associated with the variety;
 6. The certified seed status is not misused or misrepresented; and
 7. The seed has not been placed under a stop sale order by the department or any other regulatory agency.
- [Iowa Code 21-40.16](#)