

*Watch for our upcoming Spring programs which will include:*

**Seed Savers 101 & 102**

We invite you to join us through a two-part, easy-to-follow tutorial on saving seeds from open-pollinated and heirloom vegetables. Both classes in the series must be attended.

*Check out a few of the seed saving books in our collection:*

The heirloom life gardener : the Baker Creek way of growing your own food easily and naturally by Jere Gettle.  
635 GET

Heirloom vegetable gardening : a master gardener's guide to planting, growing, seed saving, and cultural history by William Woys Weaver.  
635 WEA

The seed garden : the art and practice of seed saving by Micaela Colley.  
631.521 COL

The complete guide to saving seeds : 322 vegetables, herbs, flowers, fruits, trees, and shrubs by Robert E. (Robert Edward) Gough.  
631.521 GOU

*Don't see the book you want? Please ask a staff member how we can get books from other libraries, or submit a request for purchase!*

*Watch for more gardening classes in the next issue of The Resource for more exciting topics such as: VPPL Seed Library Crop Swap, Canning and Preserving, and more!*

Our seed library was started by a generous seed donation from the Seed Savers Exchange Community Seed Resource Program (CSRP)



“Seeds have the power to preserve species, to enhance cultural as well as genetic diversity, to counter economic monopoly and to check the advance of conformity on all its many fronts.”

— Michael Pollan, *Second Nature: A Gardener's Education*



Villa Park Public Library  
305 S. Ardmore Avenue  
Villa Park, IL 60181  
(630) 834-1164  
[www.vppl.info](http://www.vppl.info)

*Community  
Seed  
Library*

## What is a seed library?

A seed library is exactly what its name implies: a place where gardeners of all experience levels can check out seeds to grow. The VPPL Seed Library will freely distribute vegetable, herb, and flower seeds to the public, along with a variety of programs, workshops, and resources to help our community members get started with their gardens.

The goal of our newly created seed library is to offer our community the ability to learn more about vegetable and other plants, gardening, the importance of preserving genetic diversity, harvesting food produced locally, and encourages direct action within our community.

## Why a Seed Library?

Seed Libraries are a relatively new concept that is rapidly growing in many communities. More people have become interested in eating healthy, locally grown food, and as a result, developed an interest in home gardening.

The seeds at Villa Park Public Library are from Seed Savers Exchange, a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and sharing heirloom seeds that are non-GMO and organic (grown pesticide free). These seeds are a legacy from gardens past, are better for the environment, and are suited for our Midwestern climate. Heirloom seeds are grown for taste, not for appearance or for ease of shipment. As a result, the food grown from these seeds means that better taste equals a greater consumption of healthy products.

A benefit of the seed library is that because these seeds are free, gardening is more affordable to those with limited income. Also, when you grow, save, and share your own seeds, you help promote community sustainability and reduce your carbon footprint which helps combat global warming.

## How is the Seed Library organized?

We have organized our seed collection into three categories:

### Easy level seeds

You will find most seeds are located under "Easy". Easy seeds to save include: peas, beans, lettuce, tomatoes, etc.

### Medium level seeds

These seeds require more time and experience. Medium level seeds include: beets, chards, carrots, and peppers.

### Advanced level seeds

Seeds that require further expertise to plant include: broccoli, cabbage, corn, and squashes.



### Community Collection

The community collection will consist of seeds harvested from local home gardens and donated to the library. This collection will be housed in a separate collection and those wishing to donate seeds will not be required to attend a seed saving class hosted by the Villa Park Public Library (VPPL).

## Seed Library location

The Villa Park Public Library Seed Library will be kept near the Information Desk on the first floor. If you would like to browse this special collection, please stop by the library today!



*We are with you every step of the way...*

- Visit the Villa Park Public Library and take a look at the many books we have in our collection regarding growing your own vegetables and seed saving.
- Check out a copy of the *The Heritage Farm Companion*, and other gardening-related magazines.

## How can I contribute seeds?

It is important that the seeds entering the collection are saved properly to ensure the purity of each variety remains intact. Therefore, we will require community members to attend a Seed Saving 101 & 102 class offered at no cost for those who wish to contribute seeds to the official VPPL Seed Library.

For those not interested in attending the Seed Saving 101 & 102 classes, and who wish to donate seeds to the Library, we have created a separate community collection of seeds in which you may contribute to.

## How do I borrow seeds?

- Visit the Adult Services Desk
- Choose up to 5 seed packets
- Check out seeds with your library card.

It's as easy as that! The basic idea is that you plant the seeds, wait for your crop(s) to come in, harvest seeds and then return some of these next generation seeds for others to borrow. The best part is there are no late fees or due dates to worry about. Please note: You must have attended a Seed Saving class to be eligible to add seeds to the official VPPL Seed Library.



Visit the following online resources:

- [seedsavers.org/Education/Seed-Saving-Resources/](http://seedsavers.org/Education/Seed-Saving-Resources/)
- [nativeseeds.org/index.php/resources/seedsaving](http://nativeseeds.org/index.php/resources/seedsaving)
- [seedambassadors.org/seed-saving-zine-4th-edition/](http://seedambassadors.org/seed-saving-zine-4th-edition/)
- [howtosaveseed.com/index.php](http://howtosaveseed.com/index.php)
- [urbanext.illinois.edu/veggies/](http://urbanext.illinois.edu/veggies/)
- [urbanext.illinois.edu/vegproblems/](http://urbanext.illinois.edu/vegproblems/)

**Please don't hesitate to ask a librarian for assistance in locating additional valuable resources for your garden!**