

Welcome to the World of Saving and Sharing Seeds!

Borrowing Seeds

The seeds you borrow from Bookworms to Earthworms Seed Share 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 be returned to the seed lending library to keep the library self-sustaining. The more seeds in the library, the more members of our community can experience the pleasures of growing their own food.



Why Save Seeds?

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

- develop seed stock that is well suited to our climate
- save money
- mitigate our dependence on agro-business

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



The seed is hope; the flower is joy.
- Author Unknown

Support Bookworms to Earthworms Seed Share

The Bookworms to Earthworms Seed Share is supported by volunteers and donations.

Welcome to The Seed Library!



Bookworms to Earthworms Seed Share

OUR MISSION:

B.E.S.S. is a free seed project committed to providing equitable access to seeds and increasing the capacity of our community to feed itself wholesome food by fostering community, resilience and self-reliance through a culture of sharing.

Located in the Ellensburg Public Library
209 N. Ruby Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
www.ellensburglibrary.org

Monday-Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-2
Sunday Closed

New to Seed Saving?

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

The seeds that are labeled “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 donate “advanced” saved seeds only after you have learned about isolating plants to prevent cross-pollination.

Library Organization

The library is first organized by type of plant: Fruits/Vegetables, Herbs and Ornamental.

There are dividers for each Common Name of the plants (IE: bean, tomato, basil, etc). Seeds are alphabetical behind the dividers.

How to Borrow Seeds

1. Fill out membership form in the binder located by the seed library.
2. Choose up to 5 seed packets, each from a different type or variety of plant.
3. Enjoy!

How to Donate and Return Seeds

First, read the Bookworms to Earthworms Seed Share brochure, **How to Save Seeds**.

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

Seeds for the library should be clean. Please fill out a seed donation form for each type of seed being donated.



Learn More

- read about seed saving at your local library
- take seed saving classes
- join the *seedsavers.org* forum
- talk to experienced seed-saving gardeners
- keep good garden records

