

How to save seeds!



PEAS, BEANS

AND OTHER PLANTS WITH SEED PODS

1. After the plants flower, they will form seed pods. Let some of the seed pods dry out on the plant. This could take until the end of the growing season. You'll know they're dry if the seeds inside rattle when you shake the pods. The seed pods will also turn brown.
2. Pick the seed pods off the plant and open them to see the seeds inside.

SPINACH, DILL

AND OTHER PLANTS WITHOUT SEED PODS

1. Leave some of the dried flowers on the stems. The seeds will form inside the dried flowers. Let the seeds dry out on the plants. They will feel hard.
2. Remove the stems that hold the seeds from the plant. Pull all the seeds away from the flowers. (If the seeds are small, put the flower stems inside a paper bag. You can catch the seeds in the bag when you pull them off the stems.)

TOMATOES

1. When you scoop out the seeds from a tomato, you'll notice that they are covered in a jellylike goo. That goo contains abscisic acid, which helps keep the seeds from sprouting inside the tomatoes.
2. Put the tomato seeds and pulp into a glass jar. Add water to fully cover. Let the jar sit in a warm place (but not in direct sunlight!) for two or three days. Stir the mixture once a day. Put the seeds in a strainer to drain the liquid and then rinse the seeds. Dry them on a piece of baking parchment paper.

PUMPKINS, ZUCCHINI

AND OTHER TYPES OF SQUASH

1. Get an adult to help you cut open the squash fruit. Scoop out the seeds. If there is any gloopy pulp sticking to the seeds, wash it off.
2. Pat the seeds dry with a towel.
3. Evenly spread the seeds on a cookie sheet lined with baking parchment paper.
4. Put the cookie sheet in a cool, dry place. Let the seeds dry out for a month.

It doesn't matter if you grow one tomato plant in a pot or a whole garden full of vegetables—you can save seeds. It's easy to do, and if you store them properly, you can plant them next year. Then you can save more seeds and start the cycle all over again!

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