



Newsletter June 2025

Greetings!

Let's embrace the fresh beginnings
that a new season brings to our community!

Thank you for joining the Muskoka Lakes Public Library Seed Library!

What is a Seed Library?

Seed libraries are exactly what they sound like—a place where anyone can borrow free seeds to plant.

How does it work?

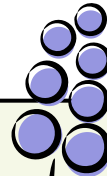
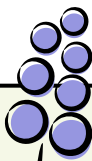
The word borrow is something of a misnomer here; it'd be more accurate to say you're just replenishing the seed library's stocks. Once you've picked out some seeds, you can take them home, plant them, and tend to them. After the plants have grown, you retrieve a few of the seeds from your crop to save and return them to the seed library, so that we can keep growing!

Why is this important?

When you know how to save seeds, you not only save money, but you also increase your self-reliance, and help to promote a more sustainable local food system.

We invite you to join our mission to **borrow, grow, share-**

- 1) plant the seeds you **borrow** and care for them to the best of your ability.
- 2) Commit to learn and **grow** personally through this process (and hopefully grow some food as well!)
- 3) **Share** seeds that you have saved (if you are indeed successful in growing, but please, no pressure!) and bring them back to the library so that we can do it again next year (and the year after that and so forth!)



A bit about the seeds we selected this year for the seed Library

Provider Bush Bean

A most reliable bush snap bean. Provider does just what its name suggests, **it provides, no matter what the weather throws at it.** Heavy yields of uniform, round green beans have a rich beany taste. Purple seed can tolerate cool soil for earlier sowing and plants are resistant to downy mildew and several bean viruses. You just can't grow wrong with this one.

Cascadia Peas

These **tasty and productive** plants reach 80 cm and need very little support. This main-season snap can be eaten when the pods are flat but are even better when plump with tiny peas. Crunchy and flavourful. Resistant to pea enation mosaic virus and powdery mildew.

Nevada Lettuce

This is a summer workhorse lettuce. **Nevada stays mild even in the summer heat and it is very slow to bolt.** Leaves are bright green, lightly ruffled and upright. The texture is like a butterhead with crunch and the taste is sweet.

Doe Hill Pepper

One of the best peppers for short season gardens.

This family heirloom hails from the Doe Hill area of Highland County Virginia. Productive, disease resistant plants produce buckets of very sweet little round lobed peppers that turn orange when ripe.

Compact plants do well in containers.

Benning's Green Tint

Pattypan Squash

Tiny, saucer shaped pale green summer squash with scalloped edges are a treat fresh from the garden. Pick when small for the best taste and tender texture. Can be roasted, sautéed, steamed, fried or baked. **Productive plants yield up to 15 fruits each and keep on producing even when other squash plants have succumbed to disease.**

This little beauty has been a favourite since 1914 when it was released. High in vitamins C, A and folic acid. Maybe you can get kids to eat flying saucer squash.

Matt's Wild Cherry Tomatoes

Flavour packed little red tomatoes have high sugar content, smooth texture and make great grazing in the garden. **Large, productive plants keep pumping out fruit when other tomatoes have succumbed to early blight.** Has some resistance to late blight as well. Little fruit weigh 1-2 grams and should be picked regularly. Little bursts of sweet tomato flavour and chewy grains are a perfect combination. Indeterminate.

SEED-SAVING TIPS

Below are a few basic **seed saving tips** to keep in mind if you are new to saving seeds.

DRY SEEDS

(in a capsule, pod, husk or case such as peas, beans, lettuce, sweet corn, radish, carrot, beets and most garden flowers)

- Leave on plant until maturity.
- Wait until they are dry on the stalk (beans) or have flowered (lettuce).
- Remove seeds and spread them out in a dry and well-ventilated spot.
- Remove any remaining plant matter.

WET SEEDS

(in fleshy, wet fruit like tomatoes, cucumbers and other large soft fruits such as pumpkins)

- Wait until plant is very ripe or overripe.
- Scoop out seeds and put in a bucket with warm water.
- Let the mixture sit and ferment for a few days, mixing daily.
*Fermentation is required to reduce disease and pest problems.
- Good seeds will settle to the bottom
- Bad seeds will float at the top.
- If mold forms, pour off mold along with floating seeds, and pulp.
- Rinse and lay out to dry in a well-ventilated area.

- Put dried seeds in a container in the freezer for a few days to kill any remaining pests.
- Store labeled seeds in a jar or envelope, in a cool, dry place for up to 3-5 years.

**FOR MORE SEED SAVING INFORMATION,
JOIN US AT SEEDY SATURDAY ON JUNE 14TH**

you're
invited

SEEDY SATURDAY

SATURDAY JUNE 14TH 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM



LEARN HOW TO SAVE SEEDS,
HANDMAKE SEED PAPER,
+ EARN SOME BONUS SEEDS!

Join us for our second Seedy Saturday of the season!
Saturday June 14th 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM in Port Carling.

No need to register.

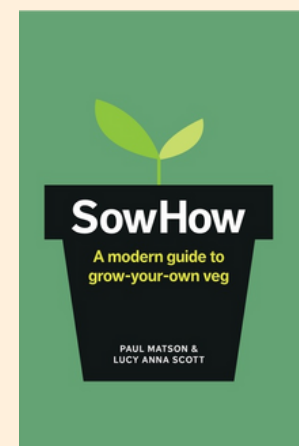
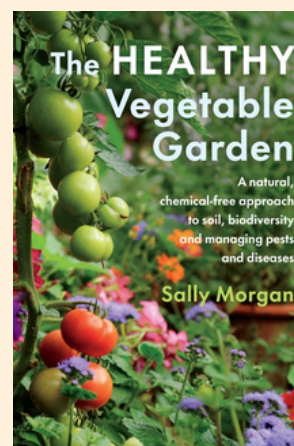
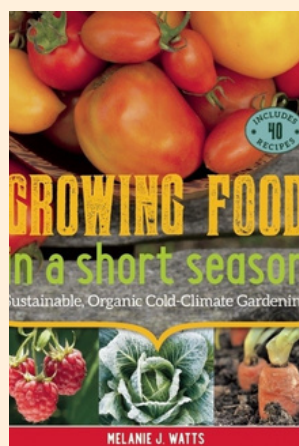
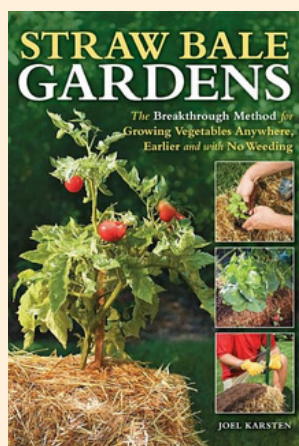
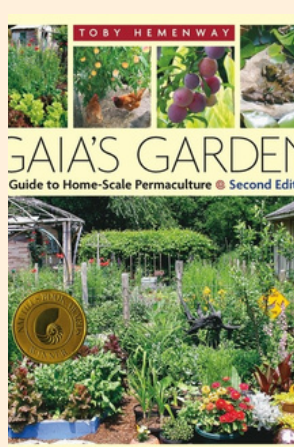
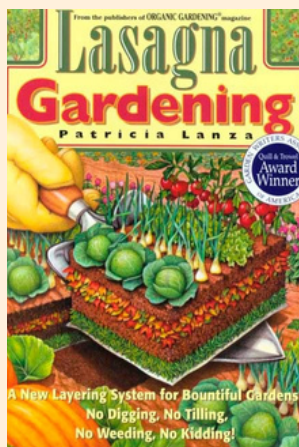
We'll be learning **how to save seeds**- in particular the types available in our Seed Library.

Our craft for this session will be **making seed paper**.
AND those who partake in this seed-loving event will be **gifted an extra special bonus packet of seeds** (which wasn't previously available in our seed library).

Come explore what the Seed Library is all about and how you can keep it growing!



Books to help get your GARDEN GROWING



Click on any book to reserve at the library today!

GARDENING
IS CHEAPER THAN THERAPY
AND YOU GET TOMATOES

