



# What to know about seed saving!



## Step 1: Determine Whether the Seeds Are Viable

*Check the seed packet or plant tag to see if it's a hybrid variety. It is easier to save seeds from self-pollinating plants.*

## Step 2: Let it Ripen

*For seeds in fleshy, wet fruit like tomatoes, wait until plant is very ripe or overripe.*

## Step 3: Take out Seeds

*Scoop out the mass of seeds and mix in a bucket with warm water.*

*Let the mixture sit and ferment for a few days, mixing daily. The fermentation process kills viruses and separates the good seeds (which will settle to the bottom) from the bad seeds (which will float at the top).*

*If mold forms, pour off mold, floating seeds, and pulp.*

*Rinse and lay out to dry in a well-ventilated area.*



## Step 4:

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

## Seed Preparation

It is advisable to break dormancy prior to planting. Place the seeds in a freezer for about three hours. After removal, expose them to warm air for about a day. This process helps to achieve optimum conditioning for immediate planting.

## Seed Germination Test

It is recommended that you test the viability of your seeds in a small area before you begin large scale planting. Using a permanent marker, write the name of the seeds and year harvested on a damp paper containing approximately 10 seeds. Place the dampened paper in a warm and moist environment. Periodically check for the average time it takes to germinate.



### Sources:

- [www.permaculturenews.org/how-to-harvest-your-own-seeds-from-fruit-and-vegetables](http://www.permaculturenews.org/how-to-harvest-your-own-seeds-from-fruit-and-vegetables)
- [www.extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/saving-vegetable-seeds](http://www.extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/saving-vegetable-seeds)
- [www.hobbyfarms.com/saving-herb-seeds-guide/](http://www.hobbyfarms.com/saving-herb-seeds-guide/)
- <https://extension.usa.edu/yardandgarden/research/collecting-and-storing-seeds-from-your-garden>