



# What to know about seed saving!



## Determine Whether the Seeds Are Viable

Tomatoes, peppers, beans and peas are good choices for seed saving. They have flowers that are self-pollinating and seeds that require little or no special treatment before storage.

## Harvesting Tips

Allow to ripen fully and scoop out the seeds, along with the gel surrounding them, before you eat or cook the vegetable.

Peppers: Allow some fruits to stay on the plants until they become fully ripe and start to wrinkle.

Remove the seeds from the peppers and spread them out to dry.

Beans: Strip the pods from the plants and spread them out to dry indoors.

They should dry at least two weeks before shelling, or you can leave the seeds in the pods until planting time.



# Keeping Your Saved Seeds

Store seeds in tightly sealed glass containers. You can store different kinds of seeds, each in individual paper packets, together in a large container. Keep seeds dry and cool. A temperature between 32° and 41°F is ideal, so your refrigerator can be a good place to store seeds.

A small amount of silica-gel desiccant can be added to each container. Craft supply stores sell silica gel in bulk for drying flowers. You can also use powdered milk as a desiccant. Use one to two tablespoons of milk powder from a freshly opened package. Wrap the powder in a piece of cheesecloth or a facial tissue and place it in the container with the seeds. Powdered milk will absorb excess moisture from the air for about six months. Be sure to label your saved seeds with their name, variety and the date you collected them. Use saved seeds within one year. The older the seed the lower the germination and vigor.



## 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>