

Borrow. Grow. Share.

Located on the library's lower level, Level One, Leon's Seed Library offers a collection of vegetable, flower, herb, fruit and wildflower seeds that are free for everyone.

Location: Susan Colgate Cleveland Library 541 Main Street, New London, NH 03257

Contact us: library@ colby-sawyer.edu (603) 526-3685

Check the Library home page for hours as they change by semester, over holidays and vacations, and due to weather

How it Works

The Seed Library is a community project that addresses food insecurity, supports our agricultural heritage and provides a collection of seeds that reflects New Hampshire's cultural diversity as well as wildflower seeds for the insect population. Making free seeds available to the community will allow for home-grown food, encourage gardening as a hobby, increase seed genetic diversity that is specific to New Hampshire's climate, give an outlet to gardeners increasing the diversity of their wildflower offerings for insects and help others to learn about sharing and saving seeds.

1. Visit the seed library, located on Level One.
2. Browse our collection of seeds in the library and take what you need. There is no limit. Only need 4 seeds? Only take 4. BYOB (bring your own baggie or use one of ours)
3. Grow your seeds.
4. Collect seeds from your best-growing plants and return them to the seed library to share with the community for the next season!

Seed Donations

All of the seeds in our collection are donated by individuals or organizations.

We accept the following donations (see seed viability articles in Resources):

- Commercial seed packages, unopened or leftover. We prefer open-pollinated or heirloom varieties. (see video link from Leon Malan below regarding heirloom vs hybrid seeds). Please do not donate chemically treated seeds. Gladly accepting wildflower seeds.
- Seeds you've harvested that are clean and dry and clearly labeled (see how to store seeds in Resources).
- Seeds for vegetables, flowers, fruits, herbs and wildflowers.
- Seeds should be dry and clean of chaff.

Donate seeds anytime we're open, all year long, at the front desk. Seeds should be dropped off in a sealed container such as a Ziploc bag or jar (which will not be returned). Please include the following information on the Seed donation form when donating seeds:

- Seed name/variety
- Seed company/information on where the seed came from. If your seed has a unique story or history, include that too!
- Year the seed was saved/packing date (usually on the seed packet)
- Your name, phone, or email - the contact information you provide is for internal library use in case we have questions about your seeds.
- Seed Donation Form

Resources

Part 1: Why save seeds and best practices with Professor Leon Malan from the Colby-Sawyer College main street garden in collaboration with Kearsarge Food Hub

Part 2: Saving seeds: how to save tomato seeds with Professor Leon Malan

Part 3: Saving seeds: how to save cucumber seeds with Professor Leon Malan

Seedsavers.org How to store seeds

Fedcoseeds.com Seed saving for beginners

How to save seed (seedsavers.org)

Awaytogarden.com Seed saving and vigor Estimating how long seeds will last

University of New Hampshire Extension services (https://extension.unh.edu)

Seed Starting Basics

Fact Sheet: Starting plants from seeds

Soil testing services

Ask a Master Gardener – UNH extension Master Gardener

University of Maine Extension (search seed starting, seed saving)

Saving wildflower seeds: wildflower.org

