

# Seed Saving

## Description

Throughout the growing season there are dozens of vegetables, flowers, and rare heirloom seeds that need preserving. We will explore seed formation, pollination, seed production, and determining which plant seeds to save and store. Students will learn about plant life cycles and participate in harvesting, threshing, curing, drying, and storing seeds.

## Key Learning Outcomes

- Pollination and pollinators
- Plant sexing, hybridization, breeding
- Seed production, storing, longevity
- Seed banks and community seed exchanges
- Natural selection, self dependence, GMOs, climate change



## Time Frame

1-2 periods

## Materials

- Harvest containers
- Shears, scissors, gloves
- Paper or plastic bags, glass bottles or jars
- Tape and markers

## Time of Season

September-November

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## Exercise

Exercises and stretches, based on the life cycle of a seed, will teach students how plants grow through movement. We will imagine and act out how wheat seeds work their way into a winter soil, how a dandelion comes to bloom and is disseminated by a warm spring gust, and much more.



## Activity

After a tour of a variety of plants, we will break into groups and work together harvesting flower heads, seed pods, and fruits. We will then discuss different seeds: how they form, and how to identify seeds and their plant families. After threshing, separating, curing and drying the seeds we will store them in plastic, paper, and glass containers to see which type of storage is the best. Students will then take excess seeds and repackage them for community members, classroom use, or next year's plantings in the garden.



## Follow Up

- Design labels for seed bags for the community
- Participate in soil blocking workshop and start seedlings from saved seed
- Observe seed storage and longevity through germination tests.