

WHAT CAN BE USED FOR ORGANIC PEST MANAGEMENT?

Organic gardeners have several options for pest management.

Beneficial Insects: Plant flowering plants to attract beneficial insects that help control crop pests.

Companion Planting: Certain flowers and herbs grown near other crops are known to deter pests, improve vigor, and increase yields.

In addition, there are many products that meet the USDA National Organic Standards Program to combat pests and disease.

Insecticidal Soaps: Some come pre-mixed while others are just mixed with water and sprayed on plants. These are effective for controlling aphids.

Diatomaceous earth: A fossilized shell which when ground-up, breaks the outer layer of an insect and dessicates them externally on contact or internally by digestion. Useful to control slugs and snails, among other pests.

Pyrethrins: A natural insecticide derived from a specific species of chrysanthemum, these are often combined with soap to provide broad spectrum control of pests. Use only as a last resort since this will kill the beneficial insects as well as the pests.

WHAT CAN BE USED FOR ORGANIC FERTILIZERS?

There are many organic fertilizers on the market today, and here is a general list of some of the most common materials:

Compost: Well decomposed compost is the best thing you can add to your soil to improve its structure, fertility, and water holding capacity. Make your own or buy from a reputable certified organic source.

Manure: Well decomposed animal manures provide nitrogen, but care must be taken to ensure they are fully composted to prevent potential health issues.

Fish and Kelp: Liquid fish emulsions supply nitrogen, while liquid kelp extracts supply micronutrients and help support strong roots and stems. These are especially useful for fertilizing seedlings until they are ready to plant outside.

Ground Rock Powders: These can be mixed with soil to provide Phosphorus and essential minerals. Phosphorous supports lush flowering and fruiting.

Natural Fertilizers: Dry powders derived from vegetable and animal sources can provide nutrition and modify the pH of your soil. These include alfalfa meal, cotton seed meal, bone meal, blood meal, and greensand among others.

Southeast Steuben County Library

300 Nasser Civic Center Plaza, Suite 101
Corning, New York 14830

Phone: (607) 936-3713
E-mail: info@ssclibrary.org

Southeast Steuben
County Library

SSCL
SEED
LIBRARY



INFORMATION TO ENRICH,
INSPIRE AND AMAZE.

TEL: 607-936-3713

New to Seed Saving?

Start with seeds that are “easy.” These seeds are great for beginners and produce plants like the ones you planted.

We recommend you start with:

Beans	Beets
Carrots	Eggplant
Lettuce	Parsley
Peas	Peppers
Spinach	Sunflowers
Tomatoes	

The seeds that are “advanced” require special planning to preserve varietal purity. If certain precautions are not taken with them, then the next grower will not get the same plant. We want to ensure that the seeds that you return to the library are indeed what they claim to be. So please borrow “advanced” seeds only after you have learned about isolating plants to prevent cross-pollination.

Learn More

- join the *seedsavers.org* forum
- read about seed saving at your local library
- talk to experienced seed-saving gardeners
- keep good garden records
- take seed saving classes

What are Seeds?

A plant produces seeds in order to reproduce itself. Just like an egg has to be fertilized to become a new animal, a seed must be pollinated to produce a new plant. Understanding pollination is key to getting seeds to produce the plants you want.

Some plants are **self-pollinating**—the male and female parts are contained within a single flower that fertilizes itself.

Other plants, called **cross-pollinators**, have separate male and female flowers and their pollen has to get from one flower to another in order for the flowers to be fertilized.

The seeds from families of plants that are self-pollinating are labeled “**easy**” to save.

The most widely crossing of the cross-pollinators are labeled “**advanced**” because it takes effort to keep them from crossing with each other.

Information from Seedsavers.org

and <https://www.seedschange.com/faq.aspx>

How to Borrow Seeds

1. Fill out a membership form for the seed library.
2. Pick out which seeds you would like to “borrow” and put that on your form as well.
3. Save some seeds and return them at the end of the growing season, one envelope per type of seed, properly labeled.
4. Watch for gardening and cooking programs at the library!

How to Donate and Return Seeds

Once you have collected seed from your easy-to-save crops, set aside some for yourself and some for the library in clearly labeled containers.

Seeds for the library should be in envelopes labeled with the type of plant, variety and when the seeds were collected.

If you haven’t done so yet, fill out the membership form at the library.

Bring your labeled seeds to the Library. Find the appropriate drawer and section for your seeds. Put your envelope behind the label for the plant. Within each divider, place seeds alphabetically. Refer to the Plant Index for scientific names.