Seed-Saving Log

Record what you save, and how well it grows

Plant and variety	Saved from (plant, place)	Date collected	Moon phase	How dried and cleaned	Stored in	Germination test: date, sown / sprouted	Notes

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Seed-Saving Notes

A green witch's guide to keeping the harvest going

Choosing what to save

- **Save from open-pollinated or heritage varieties.** Seed saved from F1 hybrids won't grow true to the parent.
- **Start with the easy ones.** Peas, French and runner beans, tomatoes and lettuce are good first crops for seed saving. Squashes, pumpkins and courgettes cross readily with each other, so their seed may not come true unless you hand-pollinate.
- **Choose your best plants,** healthy, true to type and productive, and save from several plants where you can.

Collecting and cleaning

- **Peas and beans:** leave some pods on the plant until they are dry and papery and the seeds rattle, then shell them.
- **Tomatoes:** scoop the seeds and pulp from a ripe fruit into a jar with a little water, leave for a few days until a skin forms, then rinse the seeds clean in a sieve and dry them on a plate.
- **Lettuce and flowers:** let the seed heads dry on the plant, then shake or rub the seed into a paper bag.
- **Dry everything thoroughly** at room temperature, out of direct sun, before storing. Damp seed goes mouldy.

Storing and testing

- **Store in labelled paper envelopes**, kept in an airtight jar or tin somewhere cool, dark and dry. Write the variety and the date on every packet.
- **Most vegetable seed keeps for a few years**, but some, such as parsnip, is best sown the following spring.
- **Germination test:** before sowing older seed, put ten seeds on damp kitchen paper in a warm place, keep them moist, and count how many sprout over a week or two. Seven out of ten means 70%.
- **Swap, don't sell.** Seed swaps are a lovely way to share varieties; check the rules before selling any seed.

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