



## Fall Seed Harvest and the Asheville Botanical Garden Seed Exchange

As Autumn comes and the air grows cooler, the natural world undergoes a transformation. As the leaves change color and fall, many plants begin producing seeds. It's a time when nature's bounty, in the form of seeds, becomes available to those who appreciate the beauty and importance of our native flora.

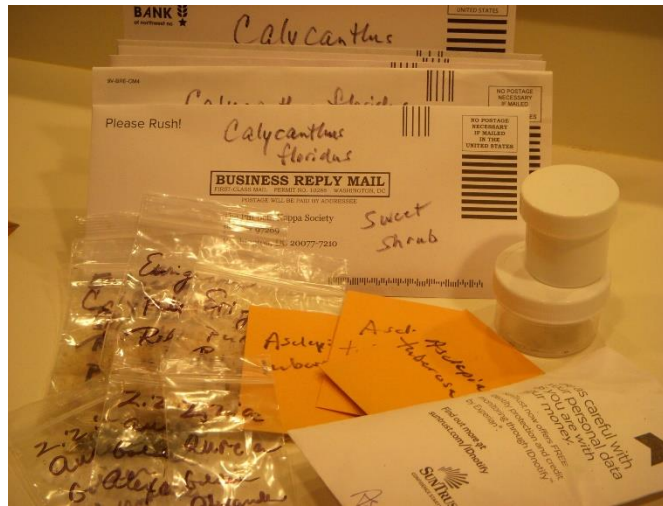
We will have a meeting in December at the Asheville Botanical Garden and part of that meeting will be a seed exchange. You are invited to start saving seeds for the exchange. This is a great way to get seeds to start plants. At the meeting we will have a talk on starting seeds in the winter.

The act of saving seeds is not just an endeavor; it's a commitment to preserving the legacy of our local plant species. It's an invitation to participate in the ongoing story of our region's rich biodiversity. But beyond its ecological purpose, saving seeds is also an excellent way to procure a diverse array of seeds to kickstart your own gardening ventures.

Stay tuned for more information on how to save and prepare your seeds for this event. Your participation in this seed exchange not only enriches your own gardening experience but also contributes to the preservation of our region's botanical heritage. We look forward to seeing you at the Asheville Botanical Garden in December, where exchanging

seeds will sow connections, growth, and a shared love for the natural world.

To help you along the way, we've gathered some resources to further your understanding of ethical wild seed collection, seed cleaning techniques, and effective storage and labeling practices.



## Guidelines for Ethical Wild Seed Collection:

[Click here to access the Guidelines for Ethical Wild Seed Collection](#)

These comprehensive guidelines provide crucial insights into responsible seed collection practices. Whether you're a seasoned conservationist or a novice gardener, this resource offers valuable advice to ensure your seed gathering aligns with ethical and ecological principles.

## Seed cleaning

Dr. Larry Mellichamp's Seed Cleaning Video:

[Watch Dr. Larry Mellichamp's Seed Cleaning Video](#)

Dr. Larry Mellichamp, an esteemed botanist and native plant expert, generously shares his knowledge and expertise in this informative video. While the video begins with seeds from trees and bushes, if you're primarily interested in wildflower seeds, you can skip ahead to the relevant content after the first 16 minutes.

## Seed collection, cleaning, storage, and planting books

Here are some helpful books. My personal favorite is Jan Midgley's self-published, book. I do own all three and Cullina's books are wonderful and I usually look at his book and Jan' when I have questions. If you are interested in other native plant books here is a link to our [recommended book list](#).

- **Native Plant Propagation** by Jan W.W. Midgley (5th Edition) Self-published. For a single copy mail a check for \$25 to address below and the author promptly sends the material. Cost includes the book and shipping. Address: Jan Midgley 10560 W. Center Ave. Lakewood, CO 80226 Email: midgleyjan231@gmail.com
- **Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers** by Harry R. Phillips University of North Carolina Press, 1985 ISBN 0-8078-4131-5
- **Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines: A Guide to Using, Growing, and Propagating North American Woody Plants** by William Cullina Houghton Mifflin Co., 2002 ISBN 0618098585
- **New England Wildflower Society Guide to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada** by William Cullina Houghton Mifflin, 2000 ISBN 0-395-96609-4
- **The New Wild Flowers and How to Grow Them** by Edwin F. Steffek Timber Press, 1983 ISBN 0-917304-51-9
- **Native Ferns, Moss & Grasses** 2008 by William Cullina Houghton Mifflin



### Seed Collection and Sharing Suggestions:

1. If you would like to share seeds for others to grow, please follow our guidelines to help us ensure that seed growers get accurately labeled seeds from healthy plants to minimize the chance of spreading plant diseases or invasive plants. Sharing seeds from propagated plants that you have observed in bloom to confirm plant ID is preferred over sharing wild collected seeds. Follow the guidelines on how to ethically and sustainably collect seeds from natural areas for propagation. Take pictures and contact us if you need help identifying your plants.
2. Save seeds from healthy, strong plants successfully propagated locally. Do not collect from plants that are diseased or show evidence of pathogen or invasive insect infestation. Even if a disease is not passed through seed, this encourages selection for disease resistance and plants adapted to grow well in the soil and climate of our area.
3. To preserve the genetic diversity of open-pollinated straight species seeds, collect and mix seeds from at least a handful of different plants per population. If you are selecting for genotypes with unusual characteristics (e.g., different flower colors), label your seeds accordingly so growers know they're getting a selection instead of straight species seeds.
4. Clean and dry your seeds properly before storing or depositing them to avoid mold and bug issues. This will not only reduce the amount of space needed to store them but also ensure the longevity of the seeds in storage. Keep seeds that need to be stored moist separate from others.
5. Please bag and label your seeds with as much information as possible before sharing them. At a minimum, have the species name, year of collection and your initials on the label. Scientific names are preferred as common names can be misleading.