

Saving Cucurbit Seed For Our Seed Bank

We love receiving seed from our members and sharing locally adapted varieties with the community.

Cucurbits such as pumpkins, squash, zucchini, cucumbers and melons can cross-pollinate quite easily, so a little information about the seed helps us know how confidently we can share it as true-to-type seed.

When donating cucurbit seed, please tell us what you can about:

- **What it is:** variety name
- **Species:** e.g. *Cucurbita pepo*, *Cuminis melo*
- **Where it came from:** your garden, another grower, purchased seed, etc.
- **How many plants:** how many plants and fruit did you save seed from?
- **Other cucurbits nearby:** were other varieties of the same species flowering nearby?
- **Pollination:** was it open-pollinated, isolated by distance or hand-pollinated?
- **Selection:** did you select particular healthy, typical plants or fruit for seed?
- **Year harvested:**

How confident are you that the seed is true-to-type?

● HIGH CONFIDENCE — TRUE-TO-TYPE

Known variety, with appropriate isolation or controlled/hand pollination and good records.

● MEDIUM CONFIDENCE — LIKELY TRUE-TO-TYPE

Known variety and reasonable precautions were taken, but some possibility of cross-pollination remains.

● LOW CONFIDENCE — POSSIBLY CROSSED

Other compatible varieties were flowering nearby, or the pollination history is unknown.

Don't worry if you don't know all of this!

We would much rather receive seed with an honest note saying:

“Open-pollinated, other zucchini nearby, probably crossed.” than have no information at all.

All three levels are welcome.

Seed that is uncertain or potentially crossed can still be valuable — particularly for gardeners interested in experimentation and breeding. We simply need to label it honestly so the next gardener knows what they are receiving.

For example: **Cucurbita pepo zucchini**

Open-pollinated • other varieties nearby • may have crossed • 2026

Our aim is not to discourage seed sharing or demand perfect seed saving.

Our aim is honest seed saving.

Thank you for helping us build a useful, transparent and locally adapted community seed collection.