

Outline for a Basic Seed Saving Class

Depending on how deeply you go into the topics below you could develop a 2-3 hour workshop

1. What is Seed Saving

- A. Give reasons why it is important to save seed
- B. Briefly describe what are the basic steps involved for saving seed (you can go into more detail later)

2. What Are the Objectives and Goals for Seed Saving

3. Terminology

- A. What do we mean by Open Pollinated (OP), Heirloom and hybrid seed?
 - a. How does OP differ from heirloom?
 - b. How does OP differ from hybrid?
 - c. Which would we choose and why?
 - d. What is GMO seed and which vegetable seeds are presently available as GMO?
- B. Describe the following
 - a. Annual plant
 - b. Biennial plant
 - c. Perennial plant
- C. Describe Monecious
 - a. Give examples
- D. Describe Dioecious
 - a. Give examples
- E. What do we mean by Self-pollinators?
 - a. Describe flower morphology
 - b. Give examples of self pollinating plants
 - c. Why might beginner seed savers choose to save seed from these plants?
- F. What do we mean by out-crossers?
 - a. Describe flower morphology. Give examples of outcrosses
 - b. What are some of the challenges saving seed from out-crossers?

4. Genetic Diversity

- A. What is genetic diversity and why is it important to seed saving?
- B. What are the steps we can take to maintain genetic diversity?
 - a. Discuss inbreeders
 - b. How many plants do you need to save seed from
 - c. What are the risks, if any, of losing genetic diversity with inbreeders and why?
 - d. Discuss what we mean by Inbreeding depression

- i. When does this occur
- ii. Give 2 ways we can prevent this from being too much of a problem

5. Maintaining Seed Purity

- A. What are some of the things seed purity is dependent on?
- B. What do you mean by Selection and Rouging and how does this help us maintain seed purity?

6. Isolation Distances

- A. What are the Crop specific factors to keep in mind when deciding on isolation distances?
- B. What might be some location specific factors that help us decide on isolation distances
- C. What are some techniques to use for out-crossers when you have limited space or close gardener neighbors?

7. Harvesting for Seed Production

- A. Dry Seed
 - a. When do you know when to harvest?
 - b. Are all dry seed plants harvested in the same manner?
 - c. Discuss the difference in harvesting lettuce verses basil or 2 other dry seeded crops).
- B. Wet Seed
 - a. When do you know when to harvest?
 - b. Are all wet seeded crops harvested in the same manner?
 - c. Compare and contrast the differences when harvesting tomato and squash seed
- C. What is recalcitrant seed - give examples and in what way we treat them differently

8. Seed Storage - creating a mini-seed bank

- A. Why is it important to dry seed to the proper moisture levels
- B. What is the proper moisture level
- C. How do we know when the seed is dry enough
- D. Seed storage procedures - discuss different methods, pros and cons
- E. Can all seeds be stored for the same length of time - discuss

Resources

- 1. List of items you would want to bring to the class for all activities
- 2. List the resource materials you can think of that you would have for people to look at or as handouts

Designing A Mini Seed Saving Class

- Determine the intended goals for conducting a mini workshop.
- Determine the amount of time needed to relay the information you have chosen
- Determine who is your target audience and why.
- Determine if you would like it to be a hands-on workshop or a lecture or both.
- Design your hands-on activity carefully and determine what materials will you need.
- Using any of the topics from your basic seed workshop outline you can design a workshop that is finely focused.
 - Pick one species of vegetables - for example
 - Brassicas, legumes or cucurbits etc.) To develop the workshop around.
- Pick one or two subjects from your basic seed workshop outline to discuss and expand upon - for example
 - Isolation distances
 - Maintaining genetic purity
 - Creating a mini seed bank
- Be sure to bring supporting information (seed saving booklets, free downloads, handouts, resource lists etc.).
- Determine how the workshop will be advertised
 - Posters
 - Listserves
 - Facebook
 - Websites
 - Free radio (national Public Radio will announce community events)
 - Local weekly news publications