



WE WELCOME

**NATIVE FLOWER, TREE,
SHRUB, GRASS & FORB
SEEDS**



**THANKS FOR YOUR DONATION!
YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**



WHY PROTECTING GENETIC INTEGRITY AND DIVERSITY MATTERS



- Seeds that are not suited for local conditions might fail or not be sustainable over time
- Poorly adapted plant species might negatively affect local populations through pollen or seeds
- Modified genetics can negatively affect our local plants' ability to sustain climate and environmental changes
- Lack of genetic diversity may make local plant populations more susceptible to pathogens, environmental stresses, and less likely to outcompete invasive species
- Genetically modified plants can have unexpected and cascading effect throughout our local ecosystem

Source: US Forest Service.

www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/Native_Plant_Materials/genetics/index.shtml

**Help us protect genetic
integrity by only donating
straight species!**



DO NOT DONATE Cultivars (short for cultivated variety)



- Plants created for specific characteristics (brighter colour, longer blooming periods, smaller foliage etc.)
- Usually propagated by cuttings or division, genetic clones of parent
- Typically has a unique, trade name that follows latin name (e.g. *Phlox subulata* "Scarlet flame")
- Do not donate unless you are 100% sure they are not cultivars

Cultivar



Straight
Species



ETHICAL HARVESTING

We encourage you to donate seeds from your garden only

DO

- Make sure to have permission from those responsible for the land
- Collect from a large population
- Take seeds from multiple plants

DO NOT

- Remove plants
- Harvest more than 10%
- Take from the first bunch
- Harvest from plants you cannot identify
- Harvest species at risk
- (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/species-risk-ontario>)

Trusted LOCAL NURSERIES



Beaux Arbres

beauxarbres.ca

**A Cultivated
Art**

acultivatedart.com

**Ferguson Tree
Nursery**

fergusontreenursery.ca

**Fletcher Wildlife
Garden**

ofnc.ca

Solidago Farm

solidagofarm.ca



Before donating the seeds, always make sure they are native by confirming in VASCAN (<https://data.canadensys.net/vascan/search/>)

How to know if you can donate seeds/plants from a business

A TRUSTED BUSINESS:

- ☐ Discloses the source of seeds/cuttings
- ☐ States that the seeds/plants for sale were grown by them, not harvested in the wild
- ☐ Has ethical guidelines or principles
- ☐ Provides the name in Latin (so you can know if it is a cultivar or not)

When in doubt, contact us!



How to Harvest Seeds

8. For seeds not required to be kept in the fridge, air dry for a few days – do not heat

7. Check on the Prairie Moon website about how to store them until donation
www.prairiemoon.com

6. Do not collect more than 10% of seeds from plants in the wild

5. Collect from multiple plants to preserve genetics diversity

4. Best to wait until plant has started releasing seeds

1. Make sure that plants are native to ON or QC using VASCAN
<https://data.canadensys.net/vascan/search/>

2. Do not donate cultivars, only straight species

3. Seeds, pods or parachutes should typically be yellow/brown and dry





HOW TO DRY SEEDS

IF THE SEEDS ARE STILL IN
THEIR PODS, AIR DRY FOR A
FEW DAYS BEFORE REMOVING
SEEDS FROM PODS

LET AIR DRY IN A PAPER BAG,
OPEN CONTAINER OR ON A
PLATE FOR A FEW DAYS

DO NOT USE A
DEHYDRATOR

How to Make Seed Envelopes

You can use any paper (Can be any colour, no plastic)

Step 1

Fold an app. 4-5 in square piece of paper diagonally

Cut out extra paper so that it is symmetrical



Step 2

Fold each side a little bit further than the middle of the triangle

Insert one end in the other



HOW TO PACK SEED ENVELOPES

- Do not donate moldy seeds
- Add:
 - 30 to 50 seeds for plants and grasses
 - 6 seeds for shrubs
 - 3 seeds for trees
- If seeds are too small, do your best
- Remove as much chaff (debris) as possible
- Add labels and fill donation form
wildflowerseedlibrary.ca/donate-seeds

