

Seed Production and Market Farming

J & L Gardens



The Basics

- Making the commitment
- Choosing a crop
- Regulation and Certification
- Growing requirements
- Isolating for seed purity
- Collecting your seed
- Marketing and distribution



Getting Started



- Sketch a field plan
- Determine isolation distances, method of cultivation, crop rotation

Types

- Biennials

Beets, cole crops, celery, carrots, parsley, parsnip, rutabaga, and turnips

- Annuals

Peas, beans, radishes, spinach, tomatoes, peppers, melons, squash, and corn



Growing

Self Pollinated

Have perfect flowers

Examples: tomato, pepper,
beans, and wheat

Cross Pollinated

Examples: onion, corn,
cucumber, cole crops,
squash, radish, celery

Minimum Population Sizes

🙏 Try to plant as many as you can!

🙏 Self-pollinating species:

🙏 Ideally: 50 plants to collect seed
from at harvest

🙏 Cross-pollinating species:

🙏 Ideally: 100 plants to collect seed
from at harvest

🙏 Realistically: 40 for cucurbits, 50
for other crossers

🙏 Why maintain a minimum
population size?

🙏 To preserve genetic diversity for
future generations

🙏 To make sure you aren't changing
the variety you are saving

Protect Your Crop

Generally, you want to plant a crop at the normal planting time, but it is important to prepare for uncertainties in the weather, and to guard against disease.



Collecting Seed

Generally, apply no selective pressure



As long as the variety is true to type look for plants with:

- Productivity
- Disease resistance
- Flavor
- Marketability

Processing and Storage



- Fermentation
- Drying

Seeds should be stored at about 8% moisture content

Ambient Temperature + Ambient Humidity equals Seed Storage Index (<50 is good)



Quality Testing and Distribution

Germination Rate



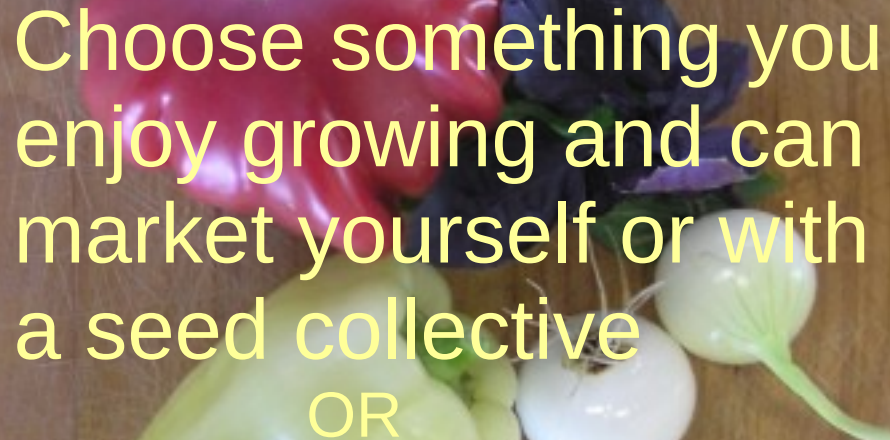
Purity Tests
(grow trials)

Disease Testing



Markets

Summary



Choose something you
enjoy growing and can
market yourself or with
a seed collective
OR



Contact seed companies
for opportunities to grow
out varieties they offer

REMEMBER TO

Provide adequate isolation to
prevent natural crossing

Rouge seed fields prior to the
stage at which they could
cross

Periodically test varieties for
genetic purity.

Follow the certification system
for your state if applicable