



What is a Seed Library?

"A seed library is a place where community members can get seeds for free or for a nominal fee and is run for the public benefit. Many seed libraries are open in public libraries and community centers. For some communities, getting folks to garden and grow some of their own food is the focus. For other communities, seed libraries may be created as an important step to develop a network of seed savers, to create locally adapted varieties, to respond proactively to climate change or loss of gene integrity due to GMOs or to preserve genetic diversity." --from *Seed Library Network*



Live Oak Public Library System, GA



Salt Lake City Public Library, UT



Sacramento Public Library, CA



Mansfield Public Library, TX

Seed Libraries are everywhere!

A Brief History

- Fall 2016 – Council Member Sara Bagheri approached DPL with a proposal for the seed library, after attending a leadership course in Madison, WI.
- March 2, 2017 - Seed Library Kick-Off.
 - Denton County Master Gardeners provided the packaged seeds as well as programs to support the project.



Anita takes lead in 2019.



2023

**Denton County
Master Gardener Association
Presents**



VEGETABLE GARDENING

Starting From Seed

March 2, 2017
6:30 pm
Emily Fowler Library
502 Oakland St
Denton, Texas

DCMGA.COM

Learn about the new SEED LIBRARY and growing your own vegetables
Borrow - Grow - Return
Presented By Janice Goetz, Master Gardener

"Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating"



How to Use the Seed Library



How to Use the Seed Library

1. Take up to 5 seed packets per household
2. Start your garden!
Visit the Denton County Master Gardeners Association website for gardening tips: <http://dcmga.com>. Scan the QR code to learn more about their help desk that Master Gardener volunteers use to answer local residents' North Texas gardening questions.
3. Harvest seeds from your plant. Be sure to dry them thoroughly and store them in a cool, dry, dark place in the packet provided.
4. Return your seeds to the library.* Provide the plant name, variety, and year of harvest written on it.
5. Borrow up to 5 more seed packets for the new gardening season.

*Returning seeds is not mandatory, but encouraged.



1. Come to Emily Fowler Central Library.
2. Visit the Reference Desk.
3. Choose five (or less) seed packets.
4. Take selection home.
5. After plants bear fruit, customers will return the dried seeds to the library where they will be made available for next year's crops.

What We Offer

- Purchased seeds
 - Heirloom fruit and vegetable seeds
 - Native flower and grass seeds
- Donated seeds
 - From patrons
 - From organizations such as Sustainable Denton
- Information Handouts
 - Easy Gardening Printouts for fruits and vegetables from Texas AgriLife
 - Planting calendars from Tarrant County Food Bank
 - Planting tips for native flowers from Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.



Process of Acquisition: Purchasing

- Choose seeds for the upcoming season.
 - References include **Denton County Master Gardeners, Tarrant County Food Bank, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.**
 - Patron suggestions.
 - Previously purchased.
 - Vegetables and fruit for the spring/early summer, flowers and grasses in late summer/early fall.
 - Priority given to native flower seeds.



Process of Acquisition: Receiving

For purchased seeds

1. Divide seeds into logo labelled packets (10-25 for fruits/vegetables; ½ tsp for most bulk flower orders)
2. Print seed description labels after sealing packets.
3. Place labels on packets.
4. Distribute.



Process of Acquisition: Receiving

For donated seeds

- Stamp blank envelopes with labels.
 - Seed, Variety, Date
 - Patrons are welcome to provide more information if they wish.
- Once labeled and sealed, donated seeds are (usually) kept separately from the purchased seeds.





Outreach

- Events: Denton Redbud Festival, plant swaps at North Branch.
- Partnerships: Denton County Master Gardeners, Sustainable Denton, and Keep Denton Beautiful.



Denton
PUBLIC LIBRARY
Grow and Return

Questions?