

Seed Saving Guide for Beans

- member of the *Leguminosae* Family
- ideal for beginners but make sure it is open-pollinated
- annual life cycle
- keep different bean varieties 10-12 feet apart
- save seed from at least 1 plant
- seed longevity around 3-4 years

To harvest seeds:

- choose healthy plants
- seeds are mature when they are very hard and their pods are dry and brittle. Mature seed pods will have begun to fade in color.
- fruits of bean plants split open at maturity, but the pods of most varieties of common beans can be left on the plant to dry fully without fear of losing seeds to shattering
- If harvested prior to the pods turning tan and papery, the pods should be allowed to dry on screens or landscape fabric in a protected place until the seeds become too hard to dent with a fingernail

to clean seeds:

- completely dry indoors if not when picked
- break open to release seeds
- Separate seeds from chaff, store in cool, dark, and dry place in airtight container
-

Be sure seeds are completely dry before returning them to the Seed Library or storing them at home for yourself.



Funding for the seed library provided by a grant from the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District.



Growing & Seed Saving Guides researched & written by Master Gardeners of Cornell Cooperative Extension Warren County

Autumn Goerner
agoerner@sals.edu
518-792-6508 ext. 265
crandalllibrary.org/library-services/seed-library/



crandalllibrary.org
251 Glen Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801