



BROWN COUNTY
Seed Library

Newsletter September 2023

Return of the Dragon Tongue Bean

We had beautiful weather for our Return of the Dragon Tongue Bean event at the library on August 22. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate with us! As your beans mature, remember to leave a few on the vine to dry completely. Once they are dry, you can bring them to the collection basket at the seed library.



Seed Steward Training

Our next in person training dates are:

Session 7 – STEM Center, UWGB Campus, 2019 Technology Way, Green Bay on Wednesday, September 13 @ 5:00 pm

Session 8 – Green Bay Botanical Gardens, 2600 Larsen Rd, Green Bay on Sunday, October 1 @ 10:00 am

Remember, a Certified Seed Steward for the BCSL is a person who has completed the following:

1. Watch the 3 videos posted on the [Master Gardener Seed Saver webpage](#).
Video 1: [Preparing for the Future](#)
Video 2: [Seed Harvest and Processing](#)
Video 3: [Final Recommendations](#)
2. Attend 1 in person training. The [Master Gardener Seed Saver webpage](#) will be updated with more training opportunities as they are scheduled. There is no need to register for the training, simply show up at the correct time and place. We will also have pollination bags available for pickup at the in-person training if you are signed up to be a seed steward.
3. Fill out the Brown County Seed Steward Certification survey.
[Brown County Seed Steward Certification Survey](#)

Once you have completed these requirements, you will be a Certified Brown County Seed Steward! The seeds you choose to grow out and donate will be packaged and utilized in the Brown County Seed Library or offered to patrons in a seed swap.

*The form to fill out when donating seeds is available at the following locations: in the green binder at the BCSL (2nd floor of central library, 515 Pine St), or room 113 at the STEM Center (2019 Technology Way, Green Bay). It can also be printed and filled out from this link: [Seed Donation Form](#) or by clicking the link at the bottom of the [Master Gardener Seed Saver webpage](#).

*Our "[core seeds](#)" are the seeds we are hoping to have grown out for the library. We also accept other seeds grown by our local Seed Stewards. And we value your input on future core seeds!

*As a Certified Seed Steward, we will provide you with a sign for your garden to show that you are saving seeds for the library. These will be available to

individuals who have completed all 3 steps in the training. Please email seedsaver@newmastergardeners.org to set up a pickup time.

On behalf of all the volunteers with Brown County Seed Library, I want to say thank you so much to everyone who is willing to spend some of their time giving back to the community in such a meaningful way. Seeds represent the next generation to the plant and the food of the next generation for those who cultivate them.

Calender of Local Garden Related Events:

September 6, 12pm - 12:30pm (free)

[From Scraps to Soil: Composting Basics](#)

Virtual, UW Extension

September 9, 10am - 12pm (free)

[Seed to Table: Lotsa Summer Squash and Zucchini](#)

Brown County Central Library

September 9, 1pm - 3pm (\$)

[Wild Plant Foraging](#)

Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve, 2024 Lakeview Dr., Suamico

September 13, 12pm - 12:30pm (free)

[Soil Testing – Why, When, and How](#)

Virtual, UW Extension

September 13, 5-6pm (free)

[Basic Seed Saving: BCSL Seed Stewards training](#)

UWGB Stem Center, 2019 Technology Way

September 21, 6pm - 8pm (\$)

Green Thumb Gardening: [Soils, Composting and Fertilizers](#)

Virtual, UW Extension

Sept 27, 6pm - 7:30pm (\$)

[Fall Garden Primer](#)

Green Bay Botanical Gardens

September 27, 6:30 pm - 8:30pm (free)

[The Bad and the Ugly: Ten Plant Diseases Not to Compost](#)

Virtual, UW Extension

October 1, 9am - 5pm (free)

[Fall Family Festival](#)

Green Bay Botanical Gardens

October 1, 10am - 11am (free)

[Basic Seed Saving: BCSL Seed Stewards training](#)

Green Bay Botanical Gardens

October 12, 6pm - 7pm (free)

[Creating and Managing Landscapes for Native Bees](#)

Virtual, Wild Ones

October 17, 6pm - 7:30pm (\$)

[The Indoor Garden](#)

Green Bay Botanical Gardens, virtual option available

October 18, 6:30pm - 7:15pm (free)

[Food Waste Composting Workshop](#)

Brown County Library East Branch, 2255 Main St

October 19, 6pm - 8pm (\$)

Green Thumb Gardening: [Getting the Garden Ready for Winter](#)

Virtual, UW Extension

October 25, 6:30pm - 8:30pm (free)

[Diseases of Houseplants](#)

Virtual, UW Extension

One Seed, One Community

Thank you to everyone who was involved in our One Seed, One Community program this summer that featured the Dragon Tongue Bean Seed. We look forward to continuing this program next year with selecting a different seed.

We will continue to accept your Dragon Tongue Bean donations. Please return these bean seeds in a paper envelope with your name on it. Other crops you have grown out to

Seed Donation Form

Please fill out this form completely, write DK for Don't Know. Put this slip in the package of seeds you are dropping off, or attach it securely. Donations accepted at Brown County Central Library or the Extension Office at the STEM Innovation Center located at UWGB Campus.



One sheet per type of seed

Species: _____ Variety: _____

Scientific Name: _____ Harvest Year: _____

Growers's Name: _____ Email: _____

Location of Harvest: _____ Seeds saved from _____ (Qty.) plants

Germination Test Done: No Yes, date _____ and results were _____ percent

How did you prevent cross-pollination? _____

Original Source of Seeds: _____ Yes No I am a trained seed steward.

Include plant particulars (what you want others to know about these seeds) on the back of this sheet.

seed can be returned with this form to the Brown County Central Library on the second floor, as well as the Brown County Extension Office, Room 113, located in the STEM Building . Forms can be found at these locations or downloaded from this website: <https://newmastergardeners.org/seedsaving/>

Submitted by Peggy, NEW Master Gardener

Seed Saving Tips

Now what do I do to harvest seeds? Select and pick the ripest and best crops to save seeds. The first step after removing the seed pod, seed head, or husk from the plant is called threshing, where seeds get separated from the plant material. Lettuce easily comes off with rubbing the seed heads between your fingers. Bean and peas can be stomped on or cracked open with a flail. Once seeds have been broken free from the plants, they are winnowed to remove the extra plant matter. Some seeds need to be extracted from fleshy tissue like tomatoes and melons. Simply cut the fruit in half and scoop out the seedy section. Read on to find out more about the two basic ways seeds are processed.

How do I clean seeds? There is a wet and dry process for cleaning seeds. Pulpy fruits with seeds in the middle is when you apply the wet process. Dry process is used for seeds we leave fully mature and dry on the vine or plant.

Dry Process: The dry process begins by separating seeds from the husk, pod or flower head. The process of winnowing is applied where chaff (dried plant material) can be separated from seeds through the use of wind or fans. Catching natural wind works for some seeds, and gently blowing on seeds works especially well for very small seeds. Screens can also be used to help separate the seeds from the plant debris. Screen sizes of different widths can be helpful. Some screen sizes let the small seeds fall through, while the chaff gathers in the screen. Some screen sizes can collect the larger seeds, letting soil and small chaff fall through. The art of seed saving comes in when choosing a method that works best for whatever type of seeds you have collected. Sometimes it is a combination of using both wind and screens.

Wet Process: A wet process begins by cutting open fruits and scraping the pulp and seeds out. For most pulpy crops like melons, squash and peppers, simply separate out the seeds, rinse with water, and then dry. For crops like tomatoes and cucumbers, use the wet seed fermenting process. This involves soaking the seeds with water in a glass or jar for 3-6 days. Fermentation does three

things. 1. It helps separate the seeds from the pulp, and the seeds release the germination inhibitor gel surrounding them. 2. It removes bacteria and fungal pathogens. 3. It separates the viable seeds, that sink to the bottom, from the non-viable seeds, that float to the top. After the fermenting period is over, fill the container with water, mix, let settle for a few minutes and decant the liquid along with the useless seeds and pulp off the top. This leaves the seeds to save in the bottom. Rinse these seeds a few times, and then dry the seeds on coffee filters, screens or paper plates in a well ventilated area out of direct sunlight. The other option to fermenting seeds is doing it like nature does it. Let the tomato or cucumber ripen until it starts to rot, and then gather the seeds.

If you would like to learn more about dry and wet seed harvesting, attend one of our free Harvesting Seed demonstrations. Refer to the list of events above, or check out our website <https://newmastergardeners.org/seedsaving/>.

Submitted by Peggy, NEW Master Gardener

Living Soil and Planning Your No-Till Garden

Last month we talked about fertility management as discussed in Jesse Frost's book "The Living Soil Handbook". This month we are discussing transplanting; talking about starting your seeds indoors as well as how to move them outside to the garden.

One of the keys to transplanting success is to start with the healthiest transplants. Proper seed storage, quality soil mix, and containers with good drainage are all essential. One of the biggest challenges when dealing with growing seeds for transplants is creating the right environment for that individual seed to grow and thrive. Some seeds need warmth to germinate (such as tomatoes) and some seeds go dormant in warm temperatures. Some seeds need light to germinate (such as lettuce) and some need dark. All seeds need adequate moisture to germinate, but can quickly mold or become diseased if they have too much. Know your seed and its requirements to provide the best environment.

There are many tools available to make starting transplants in the home setting easier. Grow lights can be used to provide enough daylight to support the plant growth, especially during winter when our daylight hours are short. How close they are to the plants will depend on the type of light bulbs used; read your packaging for instructions specific to the product you purchased. You can set your lights up with a light timer to ensure that the seedlings have

proper darkness/light cycles. Heat mats can be used to provide gentle warming to the soil. Transplant trays and transplant cell tray inserts are handy for bottom watering, as well as containing your plants. A small fan can be used to circulate air around the transplants, to help keep mold at bay and to help strengthen the plant. Ambient temperatures around the plant can be manipulated by using an indoor greenhouse to help trap heat, or using cooler spaces such as basements if your seedlings prefer cooler temperatures.

Before you can sow your indoor transplants into the garden outside, it is important to gradually get them used to outdoors. This process is called “hardening off”. No matter how you try and replicate outdoor environmental factors indoors, it will not be the same, and the plants need to go through this “hardening off” process to safely adapt from indoor life to outdoors. The cell walls of the plant harden and the cuticle (a protective layer on the outside of the plant) thickens. Start by giving them an hour or two outside in cool morning sunshine for a day or 2. Then increase the time to 3-4 hrs for another two days. Each day, increase the time by an hour or 2, monitoring how the plant is responding. If the leaves start to look bleached, decrease the time outside until it recovers. Continue this process over the course of 1-2 weeks until the plant is tolerating outside all day. Then it should be ready to be planted.

Alternatively, you can start your seeds outdoors. During summer, seeds can be started in transplant trays outside. This allows you to have a small area to focus on and once the seeds germinate and become seedlings they can be transplanted into the larger garden. During winter, it is possible to start certain seeds (such as native flowers) in milk jugs outdoors. The milk jugs act as mini-greenhouses for the plants.

Jesse Frost recommends soaking transplant plug roots in compost tea for a few minutes before transplanting, and also putting some compost tea in the transplant hole. This will provide nutrition and soil microbes directly to the root zone. After transplanting, make sure to water well and mulch. If the soil temperature is very different from the temperature of the transplant block, you may want to lay down a sheet of black plastic to warm the soil up first.

Starting seeds indoors can be a wonderful way to get your plants started before the outdoor growing season begins. For some plants, such as tomatoes and peppers, starting with transplants instead of direct seeding can make a significant difference in how long your harvest window is, and therefore, how much total crop you are able to get from a plant. Most seed packets, ours

included, tell you how many weeks before your last expected frost you should start your seeds indoors.

Submitted by Melissa, NEW Master Gardener

Featured Local Organization: The Volunteer Center of Brown County

As we close out the growing season, we will be shifting gears to think about cleaning and packing seeds for next year's plantings. Our hope is to have several seed packing opportunities in fall and winter this year. We will be posting our events on the [Volunteer Center of Brown County](#) platform Get Connected, under our partner organization [New Leaf Foods](#).

Did you know, the Volunteer Center of Brown County is one of only four standalone volunteer centers left in the state of Wisconsin? They have been helping connect volunteers with local organizations since 1973. By partnering with over 70 local non-profit organizations, the Volunteer Center of Brown County is able to offer a wide range of volunteer opportunities to match each volunteers' skills, interests and time availability. We are excited to work with them to help make volunteering with the BCSL easier!

Submitted by Melissa, NEW Master Gardener

Plant Profile: Milkweed



In July 2022, the International Union for Conservation of Nature reclassified the Monarch butterfly as endangered. (1) Since the only plants that Monarchs will lay their eggs on are plants in the milkweed family, milkweeds are essential to their survival. Monarch larvae also only eat milkweed. “Wisconsin has 14 native milkweed species. Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), and butterfly weeds (*Asclepias tuberosa*) are typical species found in many regions.” (2) Next year, the BCSL is hoping to be able to supply seeds for common milkweed. Over 450 different insects are known to feed on some portion of the plant (3), so common milkweed is not just an important food source for monarchs.

Common milkweed is a native, perennial herbaceous plant. The flowers are very sweet and fragrant. It grows in full sun and will tolerate most soil types. Because it can spread by seed or by underground rhizomes, it is considered weedy by some gardeners. Remove the seed pods before they open if you want to control where they spread on your property. Also of note, the milky white sap of milkweed is a latex that contains compounds (cardiac glycosides) that can be toxic if eaten. Care should be taken that milkweed is kept away from areas with grazing animals. (4)

For information on how to save and plant milkweed, please refer to the article [Monarch butterflies: Plant milkweed seeds](#) (2), by Vijai Pandian.

Sources

- 1.<https://www.iucn.org/press-release/202207/migratory-monarch-butterfly-now-endangered-iucn-red-list>
- 2.<https://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/life/home-garden/2016/10/29/monarch-butterflies-plant-milkweed-seeds/92835968/>
- 3.https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/asclepias_syriaca.shtml
- 4.<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/milkweed-ornamental-plants-toxic-to-animals/>

Submitted by Melissa, NEW Master Gardener

Featured Recipe: Zucchini Salsa

Zucchini Freezer Salsa

By Taste of Home Magazine

Ingredients:

- 5 cups shredded zucchini (about 5 medium)
- 4 medium tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 2 medium green peppers, chopped
- 1 small sweet red pepper, chopped
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely chopped
- 1 cup white vinegar
- 1 can (8 ounces) tomato sauce
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 teaspoons ground mustard
- 2-1/4 teaspoons salt
- 3/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon each ground cumin, nutmeg and turmeric

1/2 teaspoon pepper

Directions

1. In a Dutch oven, combine all ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 40-50 minutes or until thickened, stirring occasionally.
2. Cool to room temperature. Cover and refrigerate until chilled. Serve with your favorite snack chips or grilled meats.

Freeze option: Freeze cooled salsa in freezer containers. To use, thaw completely in refrigerator.

Submitted by Eileen, NEW Master Gardener

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