Become a BROWN COUNTY Seed Steward

Five Important Concepts of Seed Saving

1. Save seeds only from open pollinated, not hybrid plants.
2. Identify the *species* and *variety* (ie. *Tomato - Brandywine*) and write it down when you plant and write it down when you harvest the seeds.
3. Select the best of your crop to save seeds, and select the largest seeds.
4. Be aware of plants that cross pollinate and take precautions to save true-to-type seeds.
5. Completely dry your seeds before storing; store in a paper container in a cool, dry place.

Pollinator Bag Uses

- On a self-pollinating flower *before* the flower bud opens like tomatoes and peppers. After the fruit forms, remove the bag.
- When hand-pollinating cross pollinating plants like squash, melons and cucumbers. Place over the selected blossoms before they open, hand-pollinate, and replace the bag until the fruit forms.

Ressources:
www.newmastergardeners.org
www.seedsavers.org

Northeastern Wisconsin Master Gardeners
FIND YOUR NICHE AND GROW

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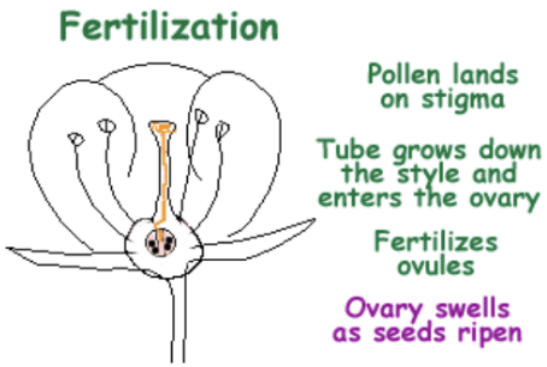
Terminology

Species - a class of things of the same kind *ie. Radish.*
Variety - a variation within a plant species that develops naturally in the environment *ie. French Breakfast.*
Open Pollinated - plants that are produced by seeds that have resulted from the *natural pollination* of the parent plant.
Hybrid - are plants produced by the cross-breeding of two genetically different varieties or species. Not recommended for seed savings, as they will not produce true-to-type offspring.
GMO - (genetically modified organism) is an organism whose DNA has been modified in the laboratory in order to favor desired traits.
Biennial - flowering plant that completes its life cycle in two growing seasons. Our climate requires some type of overwintering of these plants.
Perfect flower - has both male and female reproductive structures.
Cross pollination - pollen from one flower attaches to the pistils of another flower. This naturally occurs or can be done by hand.
Isolation - protecting the seeds crop from the pollen of plants of the same species that you did not intend it to cross with.
Chaff - plant debris around the seeds.
Threshing - breaking up the plant material to expose the seeds.
Winnowing - using wind to separate the plant material from the seeds.
Inbreeding - plants closely related to each other produce offspring. It results in offspring that are weaker than their parents. It happens by using too few plants when harvesting seeds.



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