

Garden Planning Resource List

When choosing seeds for the garden we recommend looking for organic or untreated seed that has been grown in New England. This seed will be the healthiest to work with and the most likely to be successful in our climate. If you want to save seed with your students to grow from next year, you need to also buy open pollinated or heirloom seed. Seedsaving can take some planning and attention to the lifespan of the plant. We recommend starting to save seed from tomatoes and beans, since these are some of the simplest plants to save seed from.

Here are our favorite seed sources. At each of these websites you can contact the company to request a catalog, and at all except the Medomak Valley site you can also shop online, which is sometimes a nice way to do it if you want multiple kids to be working on the order or perusing the catalog at the same time.

www.johnnyseeds.com Johnny's Selected Seeds in Albion Maine. This company provides free seeds to most all educational endeavors, and they also have a nice selection of organic and open pollinated seeds. If you do solicit seeds from them you need a seed count, (which is an estimation of the number of seeds you will need of each type of crop). Donation requests are filled with surplus varieties so you will not be able to choose the exact variety that you get, you will just receive whatever watermelon variety for example that they have extra of. Their seed packets all come with detailed planting instructions and their web site gives this info as well. I know farmers that say they learned to farm by reading Johnny's seed packets.

www.fedcoseeds.com Fedco Seeds, Waterville, Maine. This is a very heroic local seed company. They have by far the largest selection of heirloom and open pollinated varieties for our region. I believe that all seeds are grown in Waterville or near there. They have a seed company, a bulb company, an organic growers supply company, and a scionwood company for trees, shrubs, grapes etc. Their catalogs and website include interesting vintage graphics, educational essays and quotes, and incredibly useful and detailed descriptions of each plant variety, especially the apple trees. Their apple guru, John Bunker, is a celebrated apple hunter who has rescued countless old New England varieties from extinction, and he was recently featured in Downeast Magazine. His descriptions are really interesting and worth reading.

www.highmowingseeds.com High Mowing Seeds, Wolcott, Vermont. This company is a small Vermont organization that is yearly growing. It is also generous in donations to educational projects and has a nice selection of very high quality organic seeds.

Medomak Valley High School This is a catalog and seed bank maintained by students at Medomak Valley High School in Waldoboro. Their teacher Neil Lash is an amazing source of information about local heirloom plant varieties and their connections with history. They run an amazingly diverse and extensive seed project with no support from the school other than some classroom space and a closet in the boiler room. They are champions of economy and perseverance, and their project definitely deserves some support. The catalogue can be ordered by writing to Heirloom Seed Project, 320 Manktown Road, Waldoboro, Maine 04572. Please include a nine by 12-inch SASE

envelope and \$1. The students don't publish seed prices, but do ask for your donations if you order.