

## Seed Library FAQ

The Seed Library is a self-service station put on display at all four branches. Take up to 5 total packets per family per week of any variety for personal use. You are not required to hold a library card or have an account in good standing in order to take seeds home.

Q: Why don't you have [name of seed variety]?

A: Our supplier may not have had that variety at the time we were ordering or it may be hard to purchase that variety in large quantities.

Q: I have a bunch of seeds at home. Can I donate them to you?

A: Unfortunately, we cannot accept donations to add to the Seed Library. Our permit with the Indiana State Seed Lab tells us we must purchase seed ourselves to distribute to patrons. This is to ensure that what we are not distributing patented or non-viable seeds to patrons. This policy includes packets of seeds that are still sealed.

Q: What does the phrase "A Germination and Purity Test has not been completed" on all the boxes mean?

A: That statement means that the packets you take from the seed library do not have germination or seed purity information listed on the individual packet. All seeds JCPL purchased do have a high germination rate and do not contain any noxious weed seeds in any variety. This is in compliance with the Indiana State Seed Lab's requirements to distribute seed.

Q: Can I eat the seeds I get today or use them in cooking?

A: **No!** Seeds from the Seed Library are not acceptable for human consumption and should not be eaten. Shaf, debris, and dirt from the seed cleaning process may still be left over and mixed in with your seed. Since seeds are not food grade they should not be consumed and may even make you sick. However, if someone grows, for example, cilantro or sunflowers it is safe to harvest the seeds from plants they grow themselves. **Seeds from the Seed Library are not listed for human consumption.**

Q: Are all the seeds organic? Non-GMO? Heirloom varieties?

A: All seeds in the Seed Library are heirloom varieties and Non-GMO. Seeds are grown organically but not all varieties are certified USDA Organic. Getting USDA Organic certified is

an expensive and lengthy process and some seed producers choose to grow organically without certifying their seed.

Q: How do I grow this type of seed?

A: Basic directions are listed on each seed packet for the variety. Please check with a reference staff member to find additional instructions or provide access to some gardening resources.

Q: Can I save seed from the vegetables I grow or will I get in trouble?

A: Yes! You can save seed from whatever you grow! All varieties in the seed library are heirloom varieties meaning there are no patents for the seed. Any seed you save you can keep and plants grown from the saved seed will grow true next season.

Q: How long will the seed library be here?

A: The seed library will go into storage around our first frost date in the beginning of October. Once frost has set in it can be difficult or even impossible to start many varieties and any frost hardy plants should already be established before then.