



The Path

Guidelines for Seed Donations to The Path's Seed Temple

The purpose of the Seed Temple is to preserve and protect seeds of heritage, heirloom or ending red crop species and varieties for future generations, and to share seeds in the spirit of community service.

We are looking for seeds from the whole range of food crops as well as from plants that have medicinal, ceremonial, conservation, fiber, and craft uses.

Our desire is to acquire seeds from donors, then with help from volunteer growers, to grow out the seeds to increase the stock to better preserve them and make it possible to distribute seeds to others.

The seeds you provide will be handled with respect, stored properly, and grown in the best possible manner to maintain purity and integrity.

Suggested guidelines for seed donations:

- Seeds donated should be open-pollinated (non-hybrid) and non-GMO. Seeds that have been organically grown are desirable, however we also accept conventionally grown seeds.
- We are looking for the traditional older varieties that have been displaced by modern more common varieties that are at greater risk of being lost to culture. This includes seeds available through elder family members, traditional or indigenous groups, seed saving groups, etc. Seeds may also have been acquired through purchase from an heirloom seed source.
- Seeds gathered in the wild from native species are desirable although we ask that they be as clearly identified as possible with the botanical name and source location.
- We are working primarily with species and varieties adapted to the U.S. Southwest and surrounding regions. This allows us or our volunteers in our area to be able to grow the seeds to increase the stock. Species from other regions or parts of the world are certainly acceptable and may be of our interest. If your seeds are not adapted to our area, we may offer them to another similar seed organization in a location where they can be more easily grown.
- Seeds should be properly cleaned, that is, separated from other plant parts if possible, although we understand that some seed types are more easily handled and disseminated in the form of dried fruits, pods, berries, etc.
- Please provide the story of your seed with as much information on the original seed keepers and the migration of the seed as you can share.



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- For the sake of genetic diversity, we prefer that the seeds have been harvested from an adequate number (population) of plants. This varies from species to species. In any case, let us know the approximate number of plants, or plot size, that the seeds you are donating were harvested from. Seeds grown commercially or otherwise field grown are good in this regard.
- Seeds need to have been grown where the crop has been properly isolated to prevent out-crossing with other varieties or related species. This varies with species and is not an issue for self-pollinated species. Corn and squash are particularly susceptible to crossing with other varieties nearby. Consider neighboring farms or gardens.
- Seeds that may not meet one or more of these guidelines may still be acceptable. Just let us know what the issue(s) may be, and we may still be able to use your donation.

The Path.org is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. The seeds you donate will be propagated for distribution to individuals and groups for educational and humanitarian purposes. The seeds from your donation or any grown from your sample by The Path volunteers are given freely and are not sold or otherwise used for monetary gain.

If after making a seed donation you find that you need some seeds back feel free to contact us and we can return at least an adequate portion of your original sample or seeds that we have grown out from your sample.

Please use the Heritage Seed Donation Form available on The Path's website for providing the information on the seeds you are donating. Download a blank form and print to fill out by hand and send with your seed donation. If donating multiple seed samples, you may group seed with similar information onto one form or use separate sheets for each seed type.

PLEASE SEND SEED DONATION PACKAGES TO:

The Path Seed Temple Project
c/o Flordemayo Hall
P.O. Box 1163
Estancia, NM 87016

PLEASE DIRECT ANY INQUIRIES YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING SEED DONATION TO:

Lee-Ann Hill
seedkeeper@followthegoldenpath.org
970-560-5486

Thank you for your support of the seeds and the well-being of future generations.