



## What is the Seed Swap?

Just like every year, this edition of Reclaim the Seeds will include a big seed swap! This is a chance for seed savers to exchange seeds with each other, and it is also an excellent opportunity for people who don't know much about seeds or seed saving to meet and connect with more experienced savers. There will be two big market stalls where you can put your seeds and have a look around at what others have brought - and bring some new varieties home!

Below you will find more information about seed saving, what types of seeds are intended for this swap and how you can preferably bring them (i.e. what information to include per seed sort and how you can package them), as well as precise instructions for how to make a seed envelope. There will also be the possibility to make seed envelopes on the spot by the market stalls.

A couple of good reasons to save seeds (inspired by the list on <http://howtosaveseeds.com>):

- Preserve genetic diversity
- Empower your own personal breeding goals instead of the commercial goals of agribusiness seed breeders
- Save money
- Help retain the resilience of plants
- Feel satisfied, empowered, and connected!

## How to become a seed saver/swapper?

Do you want to start saving seeds, but don't know where to begin? It's easier than you might think - although some types of seeds are more beginner-friendly than others. In general, it is good to read about some basic tricks first.

Here are some useful links to websites that will describe the seed saving process for you:

A guide from the Organic Seed Alliance that explains the theory very well (and is easy to print).

[http://www.seedalliance.org/uploads/publications/Seed\\_Saving\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.seedalliance.org/uploads/publications/Seed_Saving_Guide.pdf)

Another good brochure for starters, where you also find some information about the importance of seed saving as action against the increasing power of large seed companies.

<http://www.aseed.net/pdfs/seedzine4handout.pdf>

A short beginner's guide to seed saving (peppers, tomato, melon, squash, eggplant, cucumber, summer squash).

<http://www.rodalorganiclife.com/garden/beginners-guide-seed-saving>

A very complete overview of many different vegetables in the online Vegetable Seed Saving Handbook.

<http://www.howtosaveseeds.com/>

Two more websites on seed saving:

The International Seed Savers Institute:

[http://www.seedsave.org/issi/issi\\_904.html](http://www.seedsave.org/issi/issi_904.html)

Seed Savers Exchange: <http://www.seedsavers.org/learn>

You can also check out the film "From Seed to Seed" - a pedagogical movie intended for all those who wish to learn how to produce their own vegetable seeds.

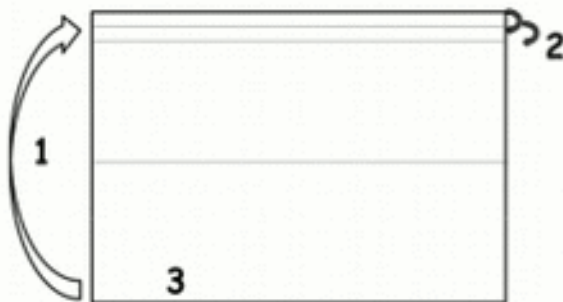
<http://aseed.net/en/new-movie-from-seed-to-seed/>

## How to prepare for the seed swap?

- Place seeds of one type of variety in a single envelope. (More information on homemade envelopes below)
- Include following information on packet:
  - Crop Name
  - Local name, Latin name, other type of name
    - Variety
    - Genus *species*
    - Family
  - Year of Harvest:
  - Location of Harvest (+ name of project/farm)
  - Extra information (weather conditions, climate, soil, pests)
  - Unique traits/characteristics? (colour, taste, growth habits, pest resistance, shade/drought tolerance, etc..)

## How to make a seed envelope?

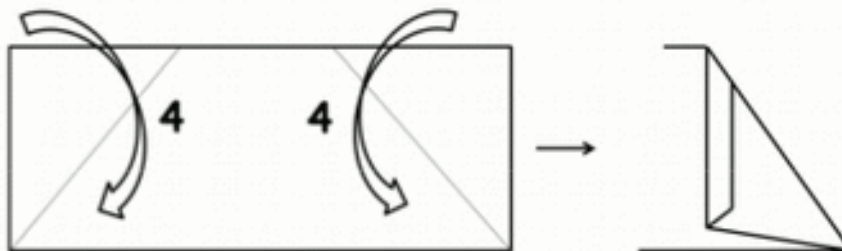
### Zaadje Origami / Seed bag origami / SaatgutTütchen Origami (DIN A6)



1 - iets onder het midden naar boven vouwen. zorg dat er een randje van ruim een halve centimeter overblijft /fold upwards a bit underneath the middle, make sure you keep a strip of a bit over half a centimetre /etwas unterhalb der Mitte nach oben falten

2 - vouw de uitstekende rand twee maal naar voren om / fold the strip downwards twice /oberen Überstand nach unten falten, dann nochmal nach unten falten

3 - omdraaien / turn / umdrehen



4 - vouw de bovenhoeken diagonaal naar beneden / fold upper corners diagonally downwards towards the lower border/obere Ecken diagonal an die untere Kante falten



5 - vouw de beide punten onderaan diagonaal naar boven en steek de uiteinden onder de randjes / fold lower corners diagonally to upper corners and put them under the edge (a bit tricky) / untere Spitzen diagonal auf die oberen Ecken falten und dort unter die Kanten stecken (etwas knifflig)

**Klaar! / Ready! / Fertig!**

om het zakje te vullen of te legen kun je één kant weer los vouwen /To fill and empty your seed bag you can open it on one side /Kann zum Füllen und Leeren einseitig geöffnet werden

If you search online you can find many other ways to fold a seed envelope.

## What kind of seeds avoid bringing? (And why)

- **No patented seeds.** In order to ensure that all plant material can be shared and distributed without the risk of lawsuits, please ensure that all materials brought are open-pollinated, and non-patented. If you're not sure whether or not your seed is patented, do not bring it for swapping.
- **No Genetically Modified Organisms.** Not only are all GMO crops patented, and thus subject to legal persecution if shared, but they are the root cause for loss of biodiversity. Additionally, spreading these seeds risks genetic contamination for organic farmers, which would then subject them to lose their certification.
- **No hybrid seeds:** The issue with hybrid seeds are that they don't support seed saving practices. The plant that you will grow using a hybrid seed, is referred to as an F1 generation. That F1 plant is going to produce a varied, unpredictable combination of offspring that most likely look nothing like it. Selling hybrid plants are a method that large seed companies use in order to ensure customer reliance on their product. We do not support this manipulative method of seed production.
- **No dead seeds:** Please ensure that at least the majority of the seeds in each packet are still alive (yes, seeds are alive) and viable. You can test this by placing a random selection of your seeds (5-10%) in a cool, moist paper towel and checking if they germinate after a week or so.

