Get Involved

There are lots of ways to get involved. Here are just a few:

1. **Promote the library:** let your friends and community know about upcoming events and join us on Facebook. If you have particular ideas about how to reach out to the community, help us out. We want to make this resource available to all.

2. **Volunteer:** We need volunteers to help with various aspects of the Seed Library. Please contact Kathy at kolsen@haywoodnc.net or call 828-356-2507 if you are interested.

3. **Donate:** We can always use cash donations to purchase supplies. If you are writing a check, please make it out to the Friends of the Library and write SEED LIBRARY in the memo line. If you would like a tax-deductible receipt for your donations, please pick one up at the circulation desk.

*Thanks to Richmond Grows Seed Library for all its assistance (information, forms, label formats…etc), ‘Buy Haywood’ for it’s support and partnership, Territorial Seed Company and Livingston Seeds for their generous donations and The Friends of the Haywood County Public Library for their support of all library programs!*

**These seeds are free and yet they are priceless. The more seeds in the library, the more our community can experience the pleasures of growing their own food!**

Learn More:

- Visit [richmondgrows.com](http://richmondgrows.com) which so generously provides information to all new seed libraries!

- Join the [seedsavers.org](http://seedsavers.org) forum

- Visit our local farmers markets and talk to your farmers!

- Visit the Organic Grower’s School website. They have a great seed exchange every year in March. [organicgrowersschool.org](http://organicgrowersschool.org)

- Attend Plott Fest in Maggie Valley in June. They have a great seed exchange program every year. Visit their website at [plottfest.org](http://plottfest.org)

- Visit Buy Haywood’s website and blog at [buyhaywood.com](http://buyhaywood.com) and learn how to support local farmers, farmer’s markets and join the discussion.
What are seeds?
A plant produces seeds in order to reproduce. Just like an egg has to be fertilized to become an animal, a seed must be pollinated to produce a plant. Understanding pollination is the key to getting seeds to produce the plants you want. Some plants are SELF POLLINATING (the male and female parts are contained within a single flower that fertilizes itself). Other plants, called CROSS-POLLINATORS, have separate male and female flowers and their pollen has to get from one flower to another in order for the flowers to be fertilized. The seeds from families of plants that are self-pollinating are labeled EASY to save. Cross pollinators are labeled ADVANCED because it takes effort to keep them from crossing with other plants.

Types of Seeds
OPEN POLLINATED or HEIRLOOM varieties have been grown for so many generations that their physical and genetic qualities are relatively stable. This seed will be “true to type” if saved. In simple terms, you will reap what you sow!

HYBRIDS If seeds are marked hybrid, F1 or VF, seeds from those plants will not produce plants like the parent plant. They may produce something quite different or nothing at all!

Seed cleaning methods can be divided into wet processing and dry processing:

WET PROCESS
Wet processed seeds are embedded in the damp flesh of fruits or berries, such as tomatoes, cucumbers, and melons. To clean wet processed seeds, begin by cutting open fruits and scraping seeds out. The seeds, pulp and juice from the fruits may need to go through a fermentation process. During the fermentation process, microorganisms such as bacteria and yeast destroy many of the seed-borne diseases that can affect the next generation of plants.

Next, wash the seeds by placing them in a large bowl or bucket. Add water, and stir the mixture vigorously. Viable seeds tend to be denser and will sink to the bottom, while poor quality seeds are more likely to float. Add more water and repeat the process until only clean seeds remain. Pour the seeds into a strainer and wash under running water. Finally, dry the cleaned seeds by spreading as thinly as possible on a flat, dry surface such as a glass or ceramic dish, cookie sheet, window screen, or a piece of plywood. Stir the seeds several times during the day.

DRY PROCESS
To clean dry processed seeds, begin by separating seeds from husk, flower head, or pod. Seeds that are in pods may need to be smashed. Once the seeds have been released from the pods or husks, you can separate them from the pods by using hand-screens. Hand-screens are easily to build, and should have a wire gauge that allows to seeds pass through. Once the larger pods are removed, lighter chaff can be separated by winnowing.

Keep in mind that damage begins to occur whenever the temperature of seeds rises above 95F. Fans hasten the drying process; ceiling fans are ideal, and placing seeds on window screens is best of all as they allow for excellent air circulation.