

## Introduction

The ADAPT program has been restructured this year to help us introduce more varieties from our collection into our catalog. To help us achieve this goal, we are partnering with SeedLinked, an emerging web platform. Here's how the program and partnership will work:

We are offering six trials this year consisting of six different crop types. Each trial includes up to seven varieties from the collection that were preselected by the Evaluation Team at Seed Savers Exchange as well as one baseline variety offered in the commercial catalog. See the following table for the list of trials and varieties. After you select the crop type (or crop types) that you want to grow, we will randomly assign you three of the varieties in that trial. We will then mail you a kit containing seeds of the three varieties, some labels, a datasheet for recording field notes, and instructions for submitting your feedback on SeedLinked.

We ask that you grow the varieties side-by-side for better comparison. We do not require a minimum number of plants of each variety as space is often a limiting factor for gardeners. You will be rating each variety on a number of key characteristics, including yield, flavor, earliness, appearance, etc. We will then use your feedback to determine which varieties proved most popular.

## SeedLinked

The past few years, we have thought about ways to have a user-friendly platform that collects and shares the results from the ADAPT program. About two years ago, SeedLinked approached us to inquire about forming a partnership for this exact purpose. SeedLinked is an emerging web platform in the beta-testing phase that seeks to connect people with information on varieties from other growers. In forming this partnership, we are closer to reaching our goal.

This year, we are excited to help test the functionality of the SeedLinked website and application. All six crop trials we are offering in 2019 will be managed through SeedLinked. Two of the six crop trials—tomato and basil—will be blind trials as participants will not know which varieties they are trialing until after feedback is submitted. The varieties will be labeled “A,” “B,” and “C” when we send them to you, and you will submit your data through the website or application using these same labels. *In order to participate in the tomato and basil trials, you must notify me no later than March 15.* The other four crop trials—lettuce, bean, pea, and pepper—will not be blind, but varieties will still be randomly assigned to you. These trials do not have a sign-up deadline. More detailed instructions on how to use the SeedLinked platform will be provided in the kit you receive with your seeds and through email.

For more information about SeedLinked, please read the following letter from founder and CEO Nicolas Enjalbert.

**If this program interests you, please make your trial selections (up to two) by emailing me, Steffen Mirsky, at [sciencecorps@seedsavers.org](mailto:sciencecorps@seedsavers.org) or calling 563-382-5990 extension 165.**

## Trials and Varieties for the ADAPT Program

| Crop Trial                  | Variety #1 (Baseline)        | Variety #2     | Variety #3               | Variety #4                 | Variety #5      | Variety #6             | Variety #7                | Variety #8       |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Basil*</b>               | Genovese                     | Tony Scavo     | Italian from Grandma     | Agostino Reghitto Genovese | Isle of Naxos   |                        |                           |                  |
| <b>Bean (pole, snap)</b>    | Kentucky Wonder              | Dallas Edwards | Dad's Wayne County Giant | Ruth Bible                 | Champagne       | Sampson Family Italian | Ralph's Best Italian Pole |                  |
| <b>Lettuce (loose-leaf)</b> | Gold Rush                    | Strela Green   | Unikum Selection         | Amerikanischer Braun       | All Cream       | Tomahawk               | Marbill                   |                  |
| <b>Pea (snow)</b>           | Swenson Swedish              | Yokomo Giant   | Hugo's Edible Pod        | Anna Mantel's Sugar Pod    | Chinese Snow    | Mangetout Corne Belier | Agio                      |                  |
| <b>Pepper (bell)</b>        | King of the North            | Sweet Spanish  | Pick-Me-Quick            | Doe Hill Golden Bell       | Michigan Wonder | Joe's Big Blocky Red   | Merrimack Wonder          |                  |
| <b>Tomato (beefsteak)*</b>  | Brandywine, Sudduth's Strain | Oma's Orange   | Oma's Pink               | Council Bluffs Heirloom    | Maiden's Gold   | Liberty Tree           | Purple Top                | DeWeese Streaked |

\*In order to participate in these trials, you must sign up no later than March 15.



January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Seed Savers Exchange members,

We are excited to collaborate this year with the Seed Savers Exchange ADAPT program to beta-test SeedLinked, an emerging seed platform. SeedLinked seeks to connect people with information on varieties from other gardeners/farmers. SeedLinked is a web platform and application available to anyone, from breeders to growers. SeedLinked is incorporated as a benefit corporation (B-corp) for now. Seedlinked is at an early stage and seeking a model to be run by its users as a cooperative or nonprofit, or remaining a B-corporation, depending on your feedback.

SeedLinked puts the control back in the hands of farmers, gardeners, and consumers. As a participatory and decentralized plant-breeding model, we are proposing a radically different approach to seed selection. SeedLinked is developing a platform that can take weather data, soil data, and crowdsourced observations from you to show you what other farmers with similar conditions think of varieties. Plant breeders will have access to incredibly detailed data, helping to drive their own selection decisions and giving them insight on farmers' evaluations, new crosses, variety performance, and market needs.

Seed Savers Exchange and SeedLinked are collaborating in the next couple years to develop and beta-test the platform through a joint USDA small business innovation grant. We would like you to participate in the beta-test if you wish. If you choose to participate, Steffen Mirsky at Seed Savers Exchange will send you an email through the SeedLinked platform so that you can enter your ADAPT data via our app and/or web platform. We are hoping it makes it much easier for you to enter data using your smartphone or computer (if you prefer this to paper). You will also be connected to other farmers participating in the trials, with faster analysis and results delivered back to you.

We will value any feedback at the end of the season to improve the platform's functionality and user experience architecture. There is no cost to participate in the beta-test, and data will not be shared outside the ADAPT program during the trial. When we move to a non-beta version, you will be asked if you want to continue participating. Thank you for your cooperation and involvement in this process.

Sincerely,  
Nicolas Enjalbert  
Founder & CEO  
[www.seedlinked.com](http://www.seedlinked.com)

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