

Introduction

The RENEW program involves growing varieties from our collection for seed, or regenerating them. Regenerating varieties from our collection is a challenging but crucial task. The varieties often have low seed quantity and reduced viability. In addition, we have very high standards for genetic purity and seed quality. As a result, the planting requirements may be more stringent than what you are used to as a home seed saver, and we expect you to do your best to grow a successful seed crop.

Most of the varieties that we offer through the RENEW program do not reach maturity at Heritage Farm due to our short growing season. Some crop types, such as tomatoes and beans, are so large in numbers that we cannot grow as many varieties as we need to at Heritage Farm. Others crop types, such as biennials, don't overwinter well or have other growth requirements that our location in Northeast Iowa cannot provide.

We will carefully vet candidates for this program to maximize the rate of success. Participants will be limited to one variety each. The table below lists the crop types we are offering this year and the requirements for regenerating them.

If this program interests you and you feel that you are a qualified seed saver, please make your selection by emailing me, Norah Hummel, at nhummel@seedsavers.org or calling 563-387-5685.

Crop	Special Needs	Qualifications	Planting Requirements
Broccoli/ Cauliflower <i>Brassica oleracea</i>	<p>Need to be overwintered (vernalized) in the ground at temperatures below 50°F for 10-12 weeks but can't be exposed to temperatures below 20°F.</p> <p>Require a large population and isolation from all other Brassica oleracea crops.</p>	<p>Must be grown in the Pacific Northwest in USDA Zone 8 or higher.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation distance minimum: ½ mile (2,640 ft) • Harvest mature seed from every plant • Population minimum: 100 plants • Harvest return minimum: 4,500 seeds
Bean <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be grown on a trellis (unless bush variety) • Isolation distance minimum: 100 ft • Harvest mature seed from every plant • Population minimum: 60 plants • Harvest return minimum: 2,000 seeds
Cowpea <i>Phaseolus unguiculata</i>	Late maturing	<p>Must be grown in USDA Zone 6 or higher</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation distance minimum: 100 ft • Harvest mature seed from every plant • Population minimum: 60 plants • Harvest return minimum: 2,000 seeds

Crop	Special Needs	Qualifications	Planting Requirements
Fava Bean <i>Vicia faba</i>	Grows best where summer temperatures do not exceed 85°F.	Must be grown in regions with cooler summers, such as the Pacific Northwest, New England, or Great Lakes regions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be supported to prevent lodging • Isolation distance minimum: 100 ft • Harvest mature seed from every plant • Population minimum: 60 plants • Harvest return minimum: 1,500 seeds
Lima Bean <i>Phaseolus lunatus</i>	Late maturing	Must be grown in USDA Zone 6 or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be grown on a trellis (unless bush type) • Isolation distance minimum: 600 ft • Harvest mature seed from every plant • Population minimum: 64 plants • Harvest return minimum: 1,500 seeds
Pea <i>Pisum sativum</i>	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be grown on a trellis (unless bush variety) • Isolation distance minimum: 100 ft • Harvest mature seed from every plant • Population minimum: 60 plants • Harvest return minimum: 1,500 seeds
Squash <i>Cucurbita spp.</i>	Late maturing	Must be grown in USDA Zone 6 or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation distance minimum: ½ mile (2,640 ft) • Harvest fruit from every plant. • Population minimum: 12 plants • Harvest return minimum: 1,000 seeds
Tomato <i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation distance minimum: 100 ft • Harvest fruit from every plant • Population minimum: 12 plants • Harvest return minimum: 700 seeds