



quick facts about SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE

Non-Profit Mission and Vision

Conserve and promote America's culturally diverse but endangered garden and food crop heritage for future generations by collecting, growing, and sharing heirloom seeds and plants.

Conservation

Seed Savers Exchange uses a two-pronged method of conservation known as *participatory preservation*:

Through *ex situ* preservation seeds are protected in seed vaults and grown out as needed to protect the health of the variety.

- o Seed Savers Exchange keeps the bulk of its collection in an underground freezer vault at Heritage Farm.
- o Back-up collections are kept at Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway and the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation in Ft. Collins, CO, and remain the property of Seed Savers Exchange.

Through *in situ* preservation Seed Savers Exchange members participate by growing out heirloom varieties in gardens across the country.

- o When gardeners grow varieties in their agro-ecosystems, the varieties continue to adapt to their growing conditions.

Distribution

Seed Savers Exchange shares seeds with the public through:

- **The Exchange:** A network of approximately 13,000 members share and save seeds through the Seed Savers Exchange Yearbook (print) and Online Seed Exchange (exchange.seedsavers.org). Members from across the world share their own seeds, and Seed Savers Exchange offers many varieties from its own extensive Heritage Farm Collection. In 2014, the exchange featured nearly 20,000 listings.
- **The Catalog:** Seed Savers Exchange publishes an annual seed catalog featuring over 600 varieties. Anyone can request a free catalog or shop for seeds and other merchandise in the online catalog. Proceeds from catalog sales enable Seed Savers Exchange to pursue its mission of preserving and distributing heirloom seeds.

Education

Seed Savers Exchange offers training for both new and expert seed savers. At exchange.seedsavers.org, gardeners can find tutorials, webinars, and seed histories. At blog.seedsavers.org, gardeners can follow the latest seed saving news. Members have access to *The Heritage Farm Companion*, our award-winning quarterly publication, which offers in-depth articles, profiles, and tricks of the trade. At Heritage Farm, Seed Savers Exchange hosts numerous events each year, including a Seed Saving School and an annual Conference and Campout.

Contact

563.382.5990
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Address

3094 North Winn Road
Decorah, IA 52101

Website

For more information, visit:
seedsavers.org/press-and-media

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Status

501 (c) (3) non-profit
Founded 1975



Outreach

Seed Savers Exchange partners with Seed Matters on the Community Seed Resource Program (CSRP), which provides the tools and guidance necessary for community groups to create seed-focused events, exchanges, libraries, and gardens. Through the CSRP, Seed Savers Exchange offers access to its own national seed exchange, community seed toolkits, and mentorship for seed saving and community organizing. The CSRP helps simplify three key components of community seed -- swaps, community seed banks, and seed gardens.

Through the Herman's Garden Seed Donation program, Seed Savers Exchange donates seed packets to community and educational groups who share the harvest and save seeds for others in need. With these donations, groups are able to establish gardens and pass along history and diversity of both culture and flavor.

Membership

Seed Savers Exchange is made up of 13,000 members, hailing from 30 countries and all 50 states.

Cost of membership ranges from \$30/year for students and senior citizens to \$1,500 for Lifetime Members. For one year, a basic individual membership costs \$40.

Member Benefits:

- Exchange – Share seeds with one another through the Yearbook and Online Seed Exchange
- Community – Connect with other gardeners to ask questions, share seeds, and offer tips
- Discounts – Save on event registration, seeds, books, and other merchandise from the catalog, website, and visitors center
- Education – Access *The Heritage Farm Companion* and get priority registration for workshops, conferences, and other events

History & Heritage Farm

Seed Savers Exchange was founded in Missouri in 1975 by Diane Ott Whealy and Kent Whealy. Diane's grandfather, who was terminally ill, entrusted to them the seeds of two garden plants, Grandpa Ott's morning glory and German Pink tomato. These seeds, brought by Grandpa Ott's parents from Bavaria when they immigrated to Iowa in the 1870s, became the first two varieties in the collection.

In 1987 Seed Savers Exchange moved to Heritage Farm in Decorah, Iowa which comprises over 890 acres.

Heritage Farm is home to:

- Gardens for preservation, display, scientific evaluation, and children's play
- The Historic Orchard featuring heritage apple trees
- The Heritage Farm Collection, maintained in an underground freezer vault according to international genetic preservation standards
- The Robert J. Becker Memorial Library, which houses more than 3,500 books, media, serial publications, periodicals
- The Lillian Goldman Visitors' Center, with gift shop and visitor information
- Over 300 native species of plants and more than 100 species of birds
- Heritage poultry, indigenous Brook trout, and Ancient White Park cattle
- Eight miles of hiking trails

Partnerships

Terra Chips
American Public Gardens Association
The Livestock Conservancy
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Native Seeds/SEARCH

Ogden Press / Mother Earth News
Organic Seed Alliance
Powell Gardens
Seed Matters
Slow Food USA

Southern Exposure Seed Exchange
Svalbard Global Seed Bank
University of Wisconsin-Madison
USDA, National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation

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Seed Savers Exchange Plant Collections

Seeds
Tissue Culture
Apple Trees

Seed Savers Exchange By The Numbers

over 20,000 accessions

over 700 in-vitro
potato varieties

over 900 apple tree varieties

over 13,000 members

over 13,000 unique seed
exchange listings from members

890-acre farm