

RENEW Program

Introduction

Whereas the ADAPT program involves *evaluating* varieties in our collection, the RENEW program is about growing them for seed, or *regenerating* them. Regenerating varieties from our collection can be a challenging task. The varieties often have low seed quantity and reduced viability. In addition, we have high standards of genetic purity and diversity and thus have strict planting requirements that may be greater than what you are used to as a home seed saver.

We will be vetting candidates for this program based on seed saving experience. Participants will be limited to one variety each. The table below lists the crop types we're offering this year and the requirements for regenerating them.

If this program interests you and you feel that you are a qualified seed saver for one of the crop types listed below, please make your selection by emailing me, Steffen Mirsky, at sciencecorps@seedsavers.org or calling 563-382-5990 x 165.

| Crop | Special Needs | Qualifications | Planting Requirements |
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| 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 <i>Brassica oleracea</i> 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 (2640ft) Harvest mature seed from every plant Population minimum: 100 plants Harvest return minimum: 4500 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: 100ft Harvest mature seed from every plant Population minimum: 60 plants Harvest return minimum: 2000 seeds |
| Corn <i>Zea mays</i> | <p>Requires a large population and significant isolation from other varieties, including field corn, unless hand pollinated</p> | N/A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolation distance minimum: 1 mile (5280ft) Harvest ears from every plant Population minimum: 300 plants Harvest return minimum: 7000 seeds Protection from predators |

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| <p>Cowpea <i>Phaseolus unguiculata</i></p> | <p>Late maturing</p> | <p>Must be grown in USDA Zone 6 or higher</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation distance minimum: 100ft • Harvest mature seed from every plant • Population minimum: 60 plants • Harvest return minimum: 2,000 seeds |
| <p>Fava Bean <i>Vicia faba</i></p> | <p>Grows best where summer temperatures do not exceed 85°F.</p> | <p>Must be grown in regions with cooler summers, such as the Pacific Northwest, New England, or Great Lakes regions.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be supported to prevent lodging • Isolation distance minimum: 100ft • Harvest mature seed from every plant • Population minimum: 60 plants • Harvest return minimum: 1500 seeds |
| <p>Lima Bean <i>Phaseolus lunatus</i></p> | <p>Late maturing</p> | <p>Must be grown in USDA Zone 6 or higher</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be grown on a trellis (unless bush type) • Isolation distance minimum: 600ft • Harvest mature seed from every plant • Population minimum: 64 plants • Harvest return minimum: 1500 seeds |
| <p>Pea <i>Pisum sativum</i></p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be grown on a trellis (unless bush variety) • Isolation distance minimum: 100ft • Harvest mature seed from every plant • Population minimum: 60 plants • Harvest return minimum: 1500 seeds |
| <p>Pepper <i>Capsicum spp.</i></p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate distance minimum: ¼ mile (1320ft) • Harvest fruit from every plant • Population minimum: 24 plants • Harvest return minimum: 1000 seeds |
| <p>Squash <i>Cucurbita spp.</i></p> | <p>Late maturing</p> | <p>Must be grown in USDA Zone 6 or higher</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation distance minimum: ½ mile (2640ft) • Harvest fruit from every plant. • Population minimum: 12 plants • Harvest return minimum: 1000 seeds |
| <p>Tomato <i>Solanum lycopersicum</i></p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation distance minimum: 100ft • Harvest fruit from every plant • Population minimum: 12 plants • Harvest return minimum: 700 seeds |