

The Heritage Seed Library

2025 Seed List

organic
since
1958
pioneers

Rare and unique heritage varieties available **exclusively** to members of the Heritage Seed Library

171

varieties to choose from

.....

82

certified organic varieties

.....

18

new varieties for 2025

.....

garden.
organic

organic
since
1958
pioneers

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Lettuce Bronze Arrow.....	Deborah Mowl
Lettuce Northern Queen.....	Adam Wood
Melon Cantalun	Katie Butler
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Pea Carlin	Catherine Goss
Pea Commander.....	Jane Baker
Pea Glory of Devon.....	Robert Motley
Pea Robinson.....	Jo Fox
Pea Stenu.....	Sandra Slack
Tomato Kenilworth King George.....	Hannah Bolger
Tomato Small Pear Shaped	Catherine Goss
Tomato Sutton.....	Rob Smith



Welcome



...to the 2025 Seed List – another bumper offer of heritage varieties for you to browse, choose and enjoy!

This year we're offering 171 varieties including the extremely popular salad mix – which includes three of our favourites perfect for picking by the leaf. We're also delighted to introduce 18 rediscovered varieties. These include the spectacular Gaia di Firenze tomato, whose dark red, ribbed fruits have smooth, sweet flesh. Equally impressive, and one of the trickier crops to conserve, is Scarisbrick cabbage, an ex-commercial variety which produces large, loose-leafed heads of rounded dark-green leaves with white veins. Nearly half of the varieties this year are certified as organic, grown on land certified by the Soil Association. The remaining have been grown by volunteer Seed Guardians, in accordance with our organic principles, so while we cannot officially mark them as 'organic' you can rest assured they've been grown in the spirit of the organisation's values.

We continue to find ways to improve the way we present information to help you find what you want for your growing spaces. This year, we've grouped tomato growing habits (bush, semi-determinate, indeterminate) and we welcome ideas from you about what else might be helpful. As always, the digital list on our website can share more information and photos than we can in printed form, so please take a peek at these too to help you decide.

It's always the case that some varieties prove extremely popular with our members, but once they're gone, they're gone! Inevitably, online seed requests reach us quicker than by post, so we recommend placing your request online once you've finished browsing this list. It also means you can see at a glance and select what's still available. If you're completing a paper request form, please remember to complete your details, and add your second and third choices - these are really important should your first choices be out of stock.

The online form is available via www.gardenorganic.org.uk/hsl, where you can browse available varieties and make your selection. Please follow the simple set-up steps and remember to complete your seed request fully through to the final confirmation page. We'll need to have your email address on record before submitting your request online. If we don't already have it, please let us know by contacting membership@gardenorganic.org.uk, quoting your membership number or postcode.

The closing date for seed requests is Friday 28 February 2025.

The year 2025 is special for us as it marks our 50th anniversary. We know the work of the Heritage Seed Library is more important than ever, and we need to continue to find and share an increasing number of varieties, as well as protect the ones we've already secured in this unique, living collection. Could you help us by becoming a 'Variety Champion' and support with a regular gift to develop the Heritage Seed Library? Please do take a look at page 34 for more information - and a massive thank you to those who've already signed up.

As always, all of us in the Heritage Seed Library team are extremely grateful for your support. We know these amazing varieties and their conservation mean as much to you as they do to us, and we couldn't preserve them without your backing and generosity.

Happy growing! With best wishes from myself and the team,

Catrina Fenton
Head of the Heritage Seed Library

Please note we can only send seed requests to addresses in Great Britain (England, Wales & Scotland). We're currently unable to send seed to Northern Ireland.

CONTACT US
TEL. 024 7630 8210
MEMBERSHIP@GARDENORGANIC.ORG.UK

Achocha

Achocha  (8 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This is a prolific and rampant climber reaching 3-4m, so it will need supporting with a trellis or a frame. The small, cucumber-like fruits have a fresh flavour, a cross between a minty cucumber and a green pepper. Eat raw or in stir-fries when young, and when mature (and they have tougher skins) stuff with meat, fish, or cheese and bake, or make an achocha curry. Can also be used pickled or as a base for chutney. The flowers are attractive to pollinating insects.



Aubergine

Szechuan (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

The name translates as 'land of four rivers' and is the anglicised form of Sichuan, where this variety was collected. Discovered by our donor in Chengdu in 1994, it produces compact plants (around 45-60cm in height) and long (20-25cm), slim, pointed fruits that begin porcelain white, turning purple only when the direct sun reaches the skin. They need no salting and are not bitter. Ideal for moussaka, ratatouille and as dip.

Beetroot

Armenian  (40 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Collected at an Armenian market by a Dutch seed enthusiast, this variety produces golf-ball sized, round, magenta beets with distinct rings and a sweet flavour.

Long Blood Red  (40 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Described by Vilmorin-Andrieux (1885) as an "American variety with a long, slender, deeply buried root... productive, and well-coloured kind". The beets are sweet, flavoursome and perfect for pickling. This variety stands well and is slow to turn woody.



Broad Bean

Bonny Lad  (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A dwarf variety reaching around 50cm in height. The pods grow in a non-uniform way, pointed both upwards and down, and contain 4-5 beans in each. Best picked when the tasty beans are just visible in the pods.

Cretian  (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor obtained these seeds when holidaying in Crete. Growing to around 60-75cm in height, the plants produced around 1kg of beans from a 1.25m x 1.25m plot. He reported that blackfly appeared not to be interested in the plants. Don't expect huge pods: four beans in each is normal, but they're produced in abundance. The tasty beans are perfect eaten raw, as they do in Greece.

Perovka (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This field bean, possibly of Balkan origin, produces a profusion of pods and small beans with black eyes. Prolific, hardy and remarkably disease and blackfly resistant. The sweet young beans can be cooked like runner beans. The nutty flavour of the dried beans make them perfect for bean burgers.



Brussels Sprout

Wroxton  (40 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originally developed by Lord North's head gardener at Wroxton Abbey, near Banbury in Oxfordshire. Introduced in 1895 as a dwarf variety, nevertheless growing to around 1m in height. Described by RA Taylor Seeds for Gardens and Allotments 1921 as "robust growing" and producing "very large solid sprouts".

Cabbage

Scarbrick  (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originally from Seeds by Size, a commercial seed company based in Boxmoor, Buckinghamshire, that has since ceased trading. We know little of its history, however, it produces large, loose-leaved heads of rounded dark-green leaves with white veins.



Carrot

Afghan Purple (100 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Egyptian cave paintings, dating back to around 2000BC, show what's thought to be purple carrots - the orange varieties we're familiar with today were not developed until the 16th century. Donated by the Southern Exposure Seed Exchange in Virginia, USA, this purple carrot produces 20-25cm roots which, when sliced, reveal a bright yellow core. They have a more pronounced 'carrotty' flavour than orange varieties, and also show some resistance to carrot root fly.

Altringham (100 SEEDS PER PACKET)

No need to contact us about the spelling, please, it was always (if erroneously) named this way! This early 19th century variety is listed in Carters Catalogue for 1842 and described by D Guheneuf in *The Garden* (1876) as "an English variety, readily distinguished from any other. It's said to have originated in Altrinham, a village in the vicinity of Chester". It produces cylindrical roots, 20-50cm long, that taper towards their end. The orange flesh is crunchy and mild-flavoured.

Beta III (100 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Bred in the USA for its high beta-carotene content, which is three times the norm - hence the name. The orange roots are medium-sized and tapered with no hard core and delicious when eaten young and small. They also freeze well.

Giant Improved Flak (100 SEEDS PER PACKET)

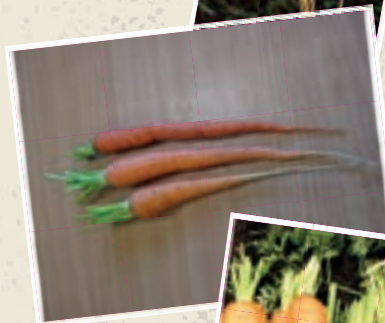
A large, long, pale orange carrot producing tapered roots with rounded shoulders that show no signs of greenback. The carrots have a mild flavour, both raw and cooked, and are crunchy and crisp, perfect for coleslaw.

Red Elephant (100 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Donated by Warwick Horticulture Research International, now part of Warwick University. A fast growing, large and tasty 19th century Australian heirloom. The deep orange-red carrots have no hard core and can be eaten at any stage from baby to full maturity. Described in Carters *Blue Book of Gardening* in 1934 as "a veritable giant, both in length and bulk, specimens have been exhibited measuring 30in long; prominent in the garden and the exhibition table".

White Belgium (100 SEEDS PER PACKET)

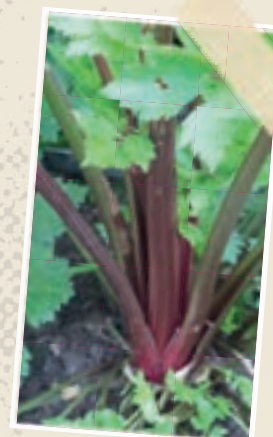
Renowned as the best cultivated white carrot, originally introduced in the 1800s for stock feed but delicious enough for table use. Has a well-developed flavour and crisp texture, equal to that of any orange carrot. Produces pure white roots with green shoulders that show above ground. High yielding and carrot fly resistant. Good for those who cannot tolerate carotene. Mentioned by Vilmorin (1885) and listed in Suttons catalogue of 1852.



Celery

Solid Pink  (150 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Introduced in 1894, this hardy, traditional trench celery variety produces large, pink stems that can be blanched easily and quickly. Retains its colour even when cooked. Ready for harvest in November/December from an early April sowing.



Chop Suey Greens

Yings Shungiku  (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

An edible member of the Chrysanthemum family, which produces bright green leaves that are perfect for stir-fries or in salads. It has quite a strong, fragrant flavour, so we would recommend using it sparingly, mixed with other vegetables. The attractive white and yellow daisy flowers are popular with butterflies and hoverflies and good for cutting, as well as making a pretty addition to salads.

Climbing French Bean

Coloured pod

Blue Beans (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

These beans were brought to the UK from France at the end of WWII. Compact (1.2m) for a climber and thought to be frost resistant and less attractive to slugs than most French beans. Produces beautiful purple flowers followed by dark purple, 12-18cm, plump, flat pods. Guardian Mrs Jane Durston says: "Lovely hot, or blanched and used in salads. Good crisp texture and nutty flavour." Seed colour pale cream to buff.



Bonne Bouche (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originating in the city of Rouen, capital of the Normandy Region in France, in the 1950s, this vigorous (>2.5m) ex-commercial variety looks beautiful grown on a wigwam support with its pairs of delicate white flowers and large green leaves. The long green pods are tender and flavoursome when young. When mature they develop a slight red stripe, at this stage the podded beans are delicious. Seed colour brown.



Bridgwater Bean  (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This variety was given to our donor by his cousin, who lives near Bridgwater, Somerset. The family have been growing this pretty bean since the late 1940s. A vigorous variety, producing tall (around 2m) plants, lilac flowers and attractive pods heavily mottled with purple. Can be used fresh or dried. Seed colour pale cream to buff with broad purple stripes.



Canadian (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This bean originated, as its name suggests, in Canada. It was served to a visiting family who were so impressed by its tenderness and flavour that they asked about its origins and were taken to see an old man who gave them some of the beans. Our donor describes them as having “a mild runner bean flavour but completely stringless and with a positively creamy texture”. It’s a late variety producing attractive white flowers tinged with pale lilac, followed by flat, green pods on vigorous (up to 3m) vines. Seed colour light buff with olive green swirls.

Cherokee Trail Of Tears (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This variety derives its name from its dramatic history. The Cherokee nation was displaced by settlers the 1838 and set off on an infamous march that became known as the Trail of Tears. They were only able to take their most precious possessions with them, one of which was this bean. Vigorous vines are prolific producers of succulent young pods that can be eaten raw or cooked, and freeze perfectly. However, this variety is principally for drying, and the small beans come into their own in winter stews and soups. Seed colour black.

Kew Blue (syn Blue Queen, Blue Coco) (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

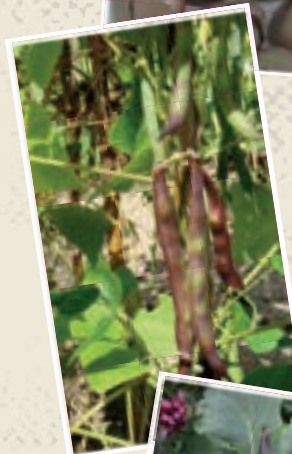
Originally from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, this variety has been handed down through at least three generations in our donor’s family. The purple-pink flowers are complemented by purple-tinged leaves and stems followed by flat purple pods. A healthy and vigorous vine (up to 2.5m) producing a prolific crop of tender pods. Perfect for eating fresh or freezing. When dried the beans have a rich, nutty flavour. Seed colour pale cream to buff.

Mrs Lewis’s Purple Pod (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our Leicestershire-based donor acquired these seeds from her neighbour who, in turn, had been given them by a cousin, Mrs Lewis from Suffolk. Mrs Lewis said this bean could not be bought commercially anymore and believed it to be ‘Purple Pod’, mentioned in a 1979 Percy Thrower book. The plants grow to around 2m in height with purple stems and very dark leaves. Small purple flowers are followed by bright, shiny, flat purple pods which, when young, are delicious steamed. The dried beans have a lovely nutty flavour. Seed colour pale cream to buff.

Polish Purple Stringless (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Thought to be of Polish origin, this bicoloured bean was given to a friend of our donor, HSL supporter Rob Croft, who passed some on to us. Grown since the 1960s on Leicestershire allotments in Broughton Astley and before that at Wigston Lane Allotments, Aylestone. It produces tall plants (>2m) with purple flowers followed by purple and green mottled, stringless pods with a great flavour. HSL member Ms Della Cannings QPM says that they are a “superb performer. From a small number of seeds we had a huge crop”. Seed colour pale cream to buff.



Portuguese (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This is a local variety from a mountain village in the Peneda Geres National Park, Northern Portugal. Produces vigorous and leafy vines reaching 2.4m in height. The white and lilac-tipped flowers are followed by stringless, bright crimson pods with green mottling. Our Seed Guardians absolutely love this one, what do you think? Seed colour cream with brown mottles.



Reading Purple (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This bean was passed to our donor by an allotment neighbour. The huge plants (up to 2.7m) have purple-veined, dark green leaves and purple stems and purple and lilac flowers followed by long, flat purple pods that change to green when cooked. These tasty pods are stringless if picked young. Unusually, this bean loses its leaves as the pods begin to dry. Seed colour pale cream to buff with grey speckles.



Tiger Bean (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This variety was grown in Cooma, South Australia, during the mid-1940s by our donor's father, who was known for his prize-winning skills as a vegetable gardener. It's an early, vigorous and easy-to-grow bean producing small mauve-pink flowers followed by stringless green pods that develop 'tiger stripes' when fully mature. Tender and with great flavour when eaten fresh; the striped dried beans are both eye-catching and tasty. Seed colour whitish with black stripes.



Ukrainian White Pod (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor was given seeds of this variety by his 92-year-old Ukrainian allotment neighbour, Waldimier Malyckuj, who was giving up his plot and wanted to pass the beans on for safe-keeping. The plants grow to around 2m in height and produce lilac flowers followed by creamish-white pods. Apparently, Waldimier used to sing to his plants in Ukrainian, and they appeared to respond favourably! Seed colour black.



Viola di Cornetti (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Thought to be an ex-commercial variety, the tall (>2m), attractive vines have purple stems and purple flowers. It's also prolific: the very long, slim, purple pods are produced in abundance. These pods can reach 30cm in length and turn green when cooked but still remain stringless! Seed colour pale cream to buff with maroon mottling.



Williams' Tiger Bean (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originally passed to our donor's sister by a friend who had in turn been given them in the late 1960s by a retired British War Graves Commission gardener. Produces vigorous, very tall plants - up to 3.5m has been recorded - and curled, green pencil pods with purple 'tiger stripes', which disappear when cooked. The beans themselves have a full, hearty flavour. Seed colour pale cream to buff with purple mottles.





Green pod

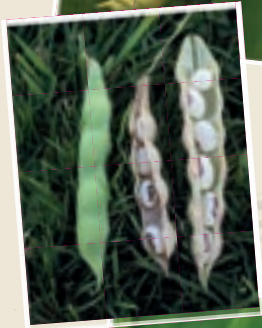
Alice Whitis Pink (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Donated by John Yeoman, formerly of The Village Guild. This 1930s heirloom was originally grown and saved by Alice Whitis in Acorn, Kentucky, USA, and is named for its seed colour. It produces vigorous 2-2.5m plants with white flowers and tender pods that are at their best if eaten when young and stringless. Also a good drying bean. Seed colour pinkish.



Bob and Mary (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This tasty and prolific bean was donated by Seed Guardian Liz Ramsay, who was given the seeds by her sister's partner, a native of British Columbia, Canada. His family have grown this variety since the beginning of the 20th century. It's thought the family received the beans as payment for help repairing farm equipment for a Ukrainian neighbour. Liz says: "The pods can be eaten at all stages: juicy and young, tender and mature or even as a dried bean." Seed colour whitish.



Buckeye Fall Bean (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Another variety donated by John Yeoman, this white flowered American heirloom grows to around 2m in height and is a prolific producer of curved, flattish green pods. Later than other French bean varieties and perfect for use dried. Let us know what you think of the flavour. Seed colour whitish with pattern around hilum.



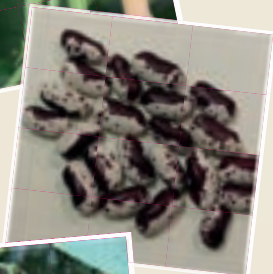
Caseknife (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This very old haricot variety dates back to at least 1820. It's a strong climber (up to 2m) and a high yielding variety producing white flowers followed by stringless, flat, pale green pods, shaped like a little knife blade, hence the name. These pods are tender and tasty when steamed, and delicious podded and eaten raw in salads. Also makes a great drying bean. Seed colour white.



Cyprus (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This bean has been grown, selected and saved in its native Cyprus for many years and was given to our donor by an allotment neighbour whose father lives on a small farm there. With very sparse foliage, it produces compact plants (around 1m) and white flowers followed by an impressive crop of crisp and slender pencil-type pods full of juicy green beans. It also crops over a long period of time. Seed colour white.



Czechoslovakian (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Produces strong, vigorous plants, growing to 2-2.5m in height which do well even in hot, dry conditions. The pretty pale pink and lilac flowers are followed by long, green, flat pods, which are stringless and tasty when picked young. The dried beans store well and have a lovely flavour. Seed colour bicolour maroon and white with maroon speckles.



Earlipol (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Another bean from the huge collection of John Yeoman. This one produces compact plants for a climber (up to 1.2m) and creamish-yellow flowers followed by pods, which cling to the large seeds they contain. Seed colour brown.



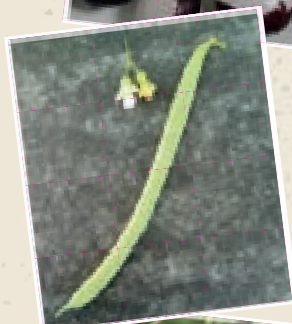
Greasy (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This variety is later than other French beans, producing its white flowers into the last weeks of August. It also tolerates hot, dry summers. The pods contain up to eight beans in each and can be eaten fresh when really small. However, it's at its best when used as a dried bean when its rich, smoky peanut-like flavour can be fully appreciated. Seed colour white.



Jack Edwards (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A vigorous pea bean with beautiful white flowers followed by lumpy-looking, succulent, tender, stringless pods. Best cooked straight from the plant when young. However, the dried beans are really tasty and store very well. If you're looking for quality of flavour, not quantity of yield, this is the one for you. A delicious bean! Seed colour bicolour white/purple.



Klapprotts Graubeige (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originally collected by Prof. Klapprott in Slovakia. Fast-growing, chill-resistant and vigorous, it produces tall (up to 2.5m), strong vines with white flowers followed by long, flat pods. Eat the pods young, when they're tender and tasty, or leave to dry and use the delicious beans in casseroles. Seed colour grey-brownish to greenish.



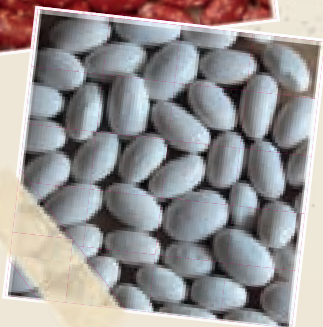
Lazy Housewife (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A German heritage variety popular there since the early 1800s. Thought to have earned its name due to the way, at the end of the season, the leaves wither and expose the pods making them easy to pick. Growing to around 2.5m in height this white-flowered variety is hardy and resilient, and very productive. One of our Seed Guardians commented: "The beans just kept coming; I grew tired of picking them every other day! The flavour is superb." Also copes well with hot, dry conditions. Seed colour pale cream to buff.



Madeira Maroon (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor bought these beans from a market in Madeira in December 1995 and has been growing and saving seed ever since. He says: "They proved to be similar to runner beans in vigour and produce very large and tasty beans, much larger than the normal haricot type." Tender and tasty as young pods and the cooked dried beans have a lovely soft texture. Seed colour maroon with cream speckles.



Mountaineer White Half Runner (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Syn. Dutch Half Runner. This variety originates with the settlers of the Dutch Fork Section of South Carolina, USA. Growing to around 2m in height, it produces white flowers and short, straight, pale green pods over a long season. When eaten young the pods are stringless and tasty, although the beans are equally delicious dried. Seed colour white.



NEW FOR 2025



Oro (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

One of many vegetable varieties donated by Rita Inchley after the death of her husband John Inchley, a keen UK vegetable plant collector, grower and seed saver. Prolific and hardy, Guardians have found it resistant to both pests and disease. Produces tall plants (>2m) and beautiful cream flowers with a purple tinge, followed by tasty, long, curved green beans. Seed colour pale cream to buff.

Rose Bean (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

An heirloom from Eastern Kentucky so named as it was grown by the Rose family in this region for more than four generations. Produces delicate white or yellow flowers, unusually on the same plant, and very large (>15cm), flat pods that cling to the 7 or 8 seeds they contain. A multipurpose bean, good fresh or dried. Seed colour pinkish with purple speckles.

San Antonio (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Produces tall, vigorous vines (>2.5m), white flowers and green pods that harbour big, white seeds. The seeds are most curious, as each is marked with a solitary saint-like figure dressed in monk robes, hence the name. Vigorous and hardy, the young beans are lovely eaten fresh and they freeze well, retaining their rich flavour. Can also be used dried. Seed colour white with brown around hilum.

Striped Bunch (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A rarity! It's claimed these beans can be found only in 'one hollow' in Right Beaver Creek, Knott County, Kentucky. Growing 1.2-1.5m in height, the pale apricot flowers are followed by flat, green pods that are tender and tasty when young - but primarily, this makes a great drying bean. Let us know what you think of this one. Seed colour pinkish brown with brown stripes.

Veitch's Climbing (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Achieved an RHS first-class certificate on its introduction in 1885 and at one time (allegedly) the most widely grown climbing French bean in England. Probably synonymous with 'Tender & True' and 'Guernsey Runner', neither of which are now commercially available. A good cropper, covered in straight, long, delicious flat pods from top to bottom. Stringless when young, but makes a really attractive and tasty dried bean too. Seed colour purple.

Cress (garden)

Grandpa's (100 SEEDS PER PACKET)

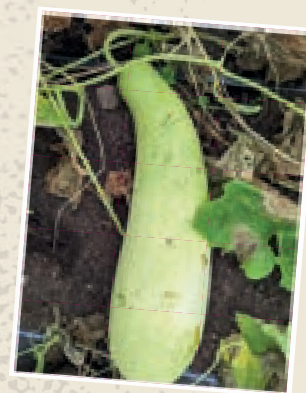
Our donor passed this cress to us as it had been grown in his family for at least three generations. He says: "It germinates easily and produces a crop in only a few weeks." A broad, serrated-leaved garden cress with a peppery flavour and tender texture. The flavour of the leaves gets stronger the higher up the plant you go. Can be grown in a pot all year round.



Dudi

Tower Hamlets  (5 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Donated by Lutfun Hussain of Spitalfields City Farm, this is one of the earliest flowering and most reliably productive dudis; it is also very vigorous and can spread to 10m easily. Ideally, provide it with some sturdy supports to climb across and to help hold the large, pale green fruits off the ground.

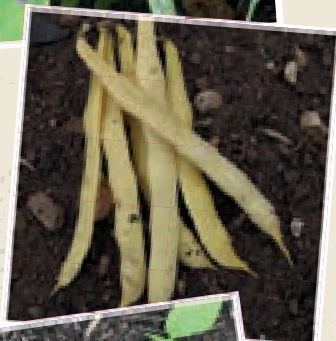
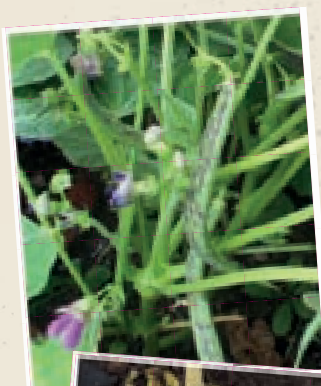


Dwarf French Bean

Coloured pod

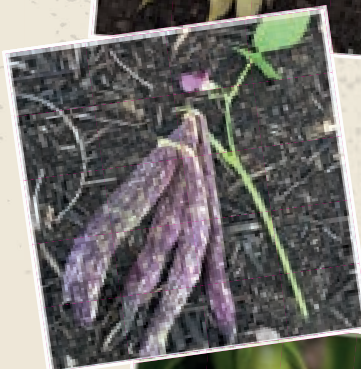
Brighstone (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

When this variety was donated to HSL it came with an interesting story. It takes its name from a village in West Wight, which has a history of shipwrecks on its dangerous shore. The story goes that the bean came from a wreck before 1900 and local gardeners grew it on their allotments for generations. Vigorous plants produce lilac flowers followed by long green pods, mottled with dark purple. Prolific and tender, even when fairly mature. Guardian Eluned Paramor describes it as “a real cracker”!



Hungarian Butter (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Thought to date back to around 1890, our donor passed this variety to HSL after acquiring seeds from a friend’s Hungarian husband. His family used them dried throughout winter, but when young the pods are delicious, sweet and stringless. An early variety with pretty pink and white flowers, followed by yellow pods. Guardian David Howells found they seemed less susceptible to aphid attack than other French beans. Seed colour greenish yellow.



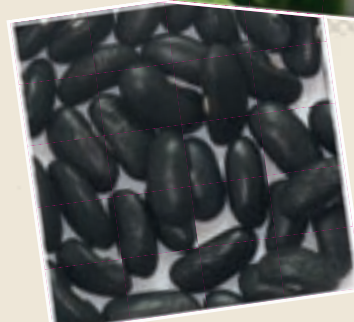
Parfree’s Dragon Tongue (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Colin Parfree obtained this variety from his neighbour, who had been given them by a friend who travelled extensively in China - where they’re thought to have originated. Compact, sturdy plants produce green pods with thin, deep violet stripes. An easy-care, easy-grow bean that would look pretty and decorative grown in pots. The young pods are tender and tasty, and the dried beans have excellent flavour. Seed colour brown with black speckles.



Yugoslav II (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Growing to around 40cm in height this variety produces beautiful pale pink flowers followed by flat, green pods that develop a purple stripe when mature. Shows good early vigour and frost resistance. Let us know what you think of it.



Green pod

Black Canterbury (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A prolific and vigorous variety, producing bushy plants and pretty lilac flowers. These are followed by flat, slightly curved green pods, some of which develop pink patterning as they age. Eat the pods young to avoid stringiness. When used dried the beans have a nutty, but sweet flavour. Seed Guardian Mrs Edna Squires describes this as a “must-have” plant. Seed colour black.



Black Coco (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This French heirloom variety produces compact, bushy plants that display both drought and cold tolerance. Dark lilac flowers are followed by pencil pods: crisp and tasty when eaten whole and as podded green beans. When dried the beans have a lovely nutty flavour, and are particularly good for use in Mexican and Cuban recipes. Sow to harvest 85 days (approx.) Seed colour black.



Hopi Black (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Named after the Hopi people, a Native American tribe of north-east Arizona who used the beans both for food and as a dye. The compact (35-50cm) but prolific plants produce dark lilac flowers followed by a generous crop of flat, yellow-green pods. These can be eaten fresh when young, or allowed to mature. The dried beans are great in chillis or as refried beans. Also thought to show some drought resistance. Sow to harvest 90 days (approx.) Seed colour black.



Hundreds and Thousands (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor obtained these seeds from a seed swap in Llandiloes, however, they are thought to have originally come from Ukraine. They produce pale pink/lilac flowers and flat, green pods which bulge around the beans as they swell. Primarily used as a dried bean; our donor uses them for their home-made baked beans; with a nutty flavour and creamy texture. Seed colour greenish-yellow.



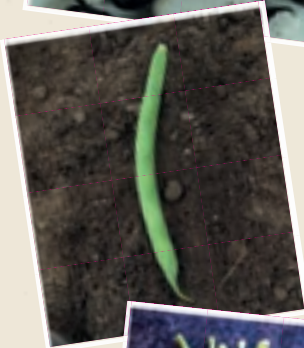
Hutterite Soup (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This hardy heirloom variety is said to have originated with the Hutterites, an Austrian religious sect lead by Joseph Hutter that settled in the Dakota Territory, USA, in the 1780s. Can be eaten fresh as a haricot, but it's also an excellent drying bean, perfect for making creamy soups, hence the name. The interesting cream/yellow beans with a dark eye need no soaking before use. Seed colour pale cream to buff.



Magpie (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A rare heirloom introduced from France in 1913 by Carters Seed Company. This is a late variety, producing strong plants with white flowers and a good yield of slim pencil pods. These are best eaten young, however, they can also be allowed to dry when the attractive seeds are ideal for soups and stews. Sow to harvest 90 days (approx.) Seed colour bicoloured white with black speckles/black.



Pirata (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor's father inherited these beans in the 1970s from a previous gardener at his place of work. Several Guardians have commented on the drought tolerance of this variety. The white flowers are followed by crisp, flavoursome pods that do not get stringy, even when mature, so the cropping period is longer than for most French beans. Seed colour brown with cream speckles.



Val's Bean (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This variety produces large plants and equally large pods and beans, huge foliage and pale pink/peach flowers. Their mild, sweet flavour makes them good for eating fresh when young, though they will become stringy if left to mature. The seeds also make tasty dried beans. Seed colour brown with cream speckling.

Kale

Ragged Jack (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor's family grew this kale for many years. Known as 'Tunley Greens', it originally came from his wife's grandfather - who obtained the seeds in Tunley, Somerset, in around 1910. Known in Europe for centuries, it was often grown in cottage and farm gardens. Valued for its hardiness and ability to provide tasty, fresh greens in the depth of winter. Its frilly grey-green leaves have a lovely purple tinge.

Spis Bladene (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

An old Danish variety whose name simply means "eat the leaves". A particularly tall kale reaching a magnificent 2m in height, so may require staking. The leaves are broad, grey green and are slightly peppery to taste. If picked young, the leaves are delicious in salads.

Tall Green Curled (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Seed merchant JL Clucas Ltd describe this variety in its 1953 catalogue as "one of the most useful vegetables grown for a supply of greens from about October to the end of April. Sow seed in March, and plant out as soon as plants are large enough to handle". It produces very curly leaves on compact plants 30-45cm in height and around 30cm wide.

Tall Kale (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Thought to have been available since the mid-19th century, this variety is both hardy and productive. The plants grow to around 1m in height, producing leaves and flowering tips with a flavour similar to that of spring greens.



Leek

Coloma (40 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A selection from Swiss Giant, this is an early, reliable and heavy cropping leek. Produces sturdy, strong and upright plants with smooth, dark blue-green leaves and long white stems.

Colossal (40 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originally commercially available, this late-maturing variety was donated by Kings Seeds during the 1980s. A hardy, reliable cropper with long, blue-green, ribbed leaves that drape onto the ground around the sturdy leeks.

Conora (40 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor grew this variety regularly until it disappeared from commercial catalogues. Introduced by Kings Seeds in the 1990s, it was recommended for an RHS Award of Garden Merit in 2002. Produces long, sturdy roots with good flavour, and also shows excellent resistance to leek rust. Sow in early spring for late autumn harvest.

Early Market (40 SEEDS PER PACKET)

An ex-commercial variety from Suttons Seeds, described as "a very early maturing variety suitable for autumn use". However, it will overwinter even in the Scottish climate. Produces light grey-green leeks with minimal bulbing at the base and a lovely mild flavour.



Kelvedon King (40 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This hardy variety was donated to the Heritage Seed Library in 1993 by John Size, formerly of the commercial seed merchants Seeds by Size. This chunky, tasty leek is a selection from Giant Winter and has good winter storage qualities.

Odin Longstanton (40 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This ex-commercial variety is excellent for autumn and early winter production. It produces huge plants (up to 1.5m) with grey-green foliage and a long, straight shank (30-40cm) with little or no bulbing.



Lettuce

Salad Mix (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Not an individual variety, but a combination of three of our favourites. This will provide you with a lovely mix of salad leaves, perfect for picking by the leaf. This year's selection includes Black Seeded Samara - a light green, loose-leafed, summer butterhead lettuce with soft, mild-flavoured leaves, Greek Maroulli Cos - a compact lettuce with beautiful, tasty, large-bladed leaves, and Mesher - a compact Austrian heirloom cos lettuce dating back to the 1700s. It has pretty, red-tinged and crinkled leaves with a delicious, sweet flavour.



Bronze Arrow (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A beautiful, productive Californian heirloom, popular in the USA but once almost unknown here. A large, non-hearting lettuce; the attractive, arrowhead-shaped leaves have a distinctive bronze tinge and mild flavour. Drought and cold hardy, so ideal for autumn sowing and overwintering. It's also less popular with slugs. The merits of this variety have been recognised by commercial seed companies and it's now included on the UK National List under its synonym Bronze Beauty. Although now considered safe, we'll continue to make it available to members for as long as our stocks last.



Brown Goldring (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originally known as 'Goldring's Bath Cos', this lettuce won an Award of Merit from the RHS in 1923. Produces crisp heads in the summer and, like many of the old cos varieties, will overwinter with minimal protection. The dark green leaves have bronze tips and are sweet, crisp and juicy; they also keep well when compared with other lettuces. Sow to harvest 55 days (approx).



Loos Tennis Ball (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

(syn. Gotte de Loos) Tennis ball lettuces are classic, loose, cabbage-headed varieties with a long history. This variety was first introduced by DT Brown in 1932. Mildew tolerant, so ideal for glasshouses and frames with little need for ventilation. Best for autumn sowing as it runs to seed quickly if spring sown. Seed Guardian Mike Wicken says: "Excellent for overwintering. Good eating quality. Flavour remains for a long time before going bitter."



Northern Queen (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor found these seeds among her father's gardening clutter. Originally sold by Finneys, a Northumberland seed merchant with nurseries and trial grounds in Newcastle. Finneys closed during the 1950s when this lettuce was its most popular outdoor variety. A large butterhead type with soft, mild-flavoured leaves. Prefers a cooler climate; our donor suggests a September sowing, as it will overwinter with protection.



Yings Stem Lettuce (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

As the name suggests, cultivated for its stem. This variety was collected from an allotment in Coventry and is productive both outside and in the glasshouse. Its stems have a distinctive smoky flavour, which is delicious sliced and stir fried.

Melon

Cantalun (6 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originally from the Vilmorin Seed House, this Charentais-type melon produces round fruits, approximately 12-15cm in diameter and just under 1kg in weight. The orange flesh is sweet and juicy. One member was so keen to praise it that she contacted us immediately after sharing it with a friend, describing it as "utterly delicious, the nicest melon we have ever eaten".



Green Nutmeg (6 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Nutmeg was the name of one of the oldest melons known and, though it once referred to a definitive type, years of cultivation provided numerous variations. Cucurbits of New York (1935) states that Green Nutmeg is one of the earliest of these variations and the description they offer matches the melon we hold in the HSL Collection. When fully ripe the fruits have yellowish-brown skin with greenish-brown 'netting' and soft-textured, juicy, pale green flesh with a fantastic aroma. Does well in a cold frame or polytunnel, and outdoors in warmer areas.



Onion

Batun  (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This Russian variety forms clumps of thumb-sized, purple-tinged, crescent-shaped bulbs, similar to multiplier onions. Sown from spring through until early autumn, this perennial variety can be left in the ground all year round and propagated by allowing to seed (which it will in its second year) or by dividing the clumps. The mild flavoured bulbs are ideal for salads, soups and stir fries.

Cipolla Bianca Agostana  (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This Italian onion is a large, mid to late maturing, globe-shaped white-fleshed variety with thin skin. Sweet and mild, but full of flavour and with a little 'kick'. No streaming eyes while slicing either! Medium storage capacity.

Portuguesa Amarilla Tardia  (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Translating as Late Yellow Portuguese, this variety produces a uniform crop of large, slightly flattened globe shaped onions. Let us know what you think of it.

Rousham Park Hero  (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Once an exhibition favourite, this flat, yellow-skinned variety can be spring or autumn sown. Bred at Rousham Park, near Bicester, Oxfordshire, in the 19th century by the head gardener Mr Wingrove, and William Woods. It was grown in the vegetable garden there until the 1930s. Described in RA Taylor Seeds for All Gardens and Allotments (1921) as a "remarkably handsome onion of immense size".

Strigonovsky  (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This Russian variety produces brown, globe-shaped onions with yellow flesh. The bulbs are 120-240g in size with good flavour, and not excessively hot.



Pea

Up to 1m

Lockie's Early (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor has grown this variety since 1982, when he was given some seed by his farming neighbour. The peas had originally been given to the farmer's mother and father in 1906 as a good luck wedding present by 'Lockie', the farm's shepherd. This continued the Cotswold tradition that if you had a supply of dried peas you would never starve. A hardy pea growing to around 1m in height and producing white flowers and long pods.

1.1 to 1.8m

Bijou (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A French mangetout variety donated to HSL in the early 1980s, but grown by our donor for many years. It's a vigorous and productive variety, so will need strong supports. The gorgeous, bi-coloured purple flowers are followed by sweet, succulent and usually stringless pods. Seed Guardian Anne St John says it's a "really delicious, huge, succulent mangetout. Splendidly reliable and super flavour".





Clarke's Beltony Blue (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This heirloom variety has been grown on our donor's great grandfather's farm in Co. Tyrone since at least 1850 (but possibly as far back as 1815). This tall (around 1.5m), prolific and vigorous pea produces beautiful pale pink and rich maroon flowers followed by a heavy crop of purple pods. The peas have a sweet and smooth flavour, becoming even sweeter when cooked. Sow to harvest 100 days (approx).



Cooper's Bean Pea (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor was given these peas by a visitor to her house during Open Gardens weekend and has grown them for many years. She says: "It looks like a pea, tastes like a bean." This variety is very tall (around 1.75m) with productive, beautiful, bicoloured violet and deep reddish-purple flowers followed by fat, straight pods. The peas are perfect for drying and making mushy peas.



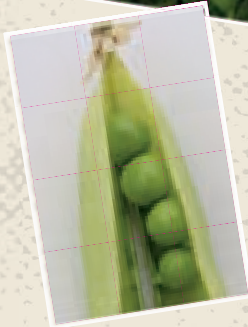
Fairbeards Non Pariel (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Syn. Admiral. 'Non Pareil' from the French meaning unrivalled. This variety was bred by William Fairbeard, probably around 1840. It's derived from Champion of England which was also, until reintroduced for commercial sale, held in the HSL collection. This early, wrinkle-seeded variety grows to around 1.8m in height and produces white flowers followed by slender, light green pods, with 6-8 sweet-flavoured peas in each.



Glory Of Devon (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A popular West Country maincrop variety, granted an Award of Merit from the RHS in 1899, this pea was repatriated by author William Woys Weaver from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) collection. Growing to around 1.2m in height, this variety produces white flowers followed by pods full of small, sweet peas, produced over a long period of time.



Laxtons Exquisite (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This maincrop pea produces its pods, as so many of these old varieties of pea do, over a long period of time and at a good height for picking to be a pleasure. Introduced before 1937, this early variety grows to around 1.5m, producing white flowers and large pods packed with wrinkled seeds. Laxtons Catalogue says "really delicious and the crop heavy and of first class quality. Award of Merit RHS". HSL member Elizabeth Dennis told us the flavour "lives up to its name: truly exquisite".



NEW
FOR 2025

Lord Leicester (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This 19th century dwarf variety produces stout stemmed plants, white flowers and plump, well-filled pods. Listed in Harrisons of Leicester Garden Seeds and Sundries catalogue 1919 as: "A cross between Gradus and Strategem, grown and selected for many years on our farm; it has a slender, free habit of Gradus and the pods are immense and are filled with large peas of the richest flavour, sweet and buttery." Hedrick in Vegetables of New York (1928) confirms the breeding line, and adds that it was created by Thomas Laxton.



NEW
FOR 2025

Roi de Carouby Snow Pea (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Donated by John Yeoman, this French variety produces tall plants, beautiful maroon and violet bicoloured flowers and succulent, sweet, stringless pods of incredible size. Snow peas are eaten whole, pod-and-all, when the peas are beginning to develop in the pods. Crisp and delicious when raw, but equally so lightly steamed or in stir-fries. Guardian Adam Alexander describes it as having “stand-out culinary qualities”, and we hope you agree.



Salmon Flowered (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor described the unusual flowers of this variety as “growing like fingers on a hand”. Originally trialled as a fodder crop in the 1970s, the compact plants have strikingly beautiful, bicolour pink flowers followed by small, sweet pods. The plants require good supports as flowers and pods are produced primarily at the top of the plants.



Suttons Achievement (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This tall, second early variety is a heavy cropper so benefits from sturdy supports. It was introduced by Sutton & Sons in the early 1950s, when it won an RHS First Class Certificate. Its 1954 catalogue states: “A distinct type and possesses many superb qualities...a quality pea both for culinary and exhibition purposes.” Our Seed Guardians agree! Sow to harvest 80 days (approx).



Suttons Phenomenon (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Suttons 1933 catalogue states: “This splendid pea is regarded by the large number of customers who have grown it as being one of the finest varieties we have ever introduced. The crop produced is quite prodigious and the pods are of an extraordinary size; indeed no other pea of the strictly dwarf-growing class can surpass it in size of pod. These are slightly curved in shape and are tightly filled with nine to 12 peas. The table quality is very choice.” Let us know if you agree!



NEW
FOR 2025

Suttons Super Pea “The VC” (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This variety was introduced by Suttons in 1905. Its 1933 catalogue proudly states: “The largest podded tall pea ever placed in commerce. The comparative tests carried out by us leave no doubt that the pods of this remarkable pea surpass in size every other giant-podded variety with which we are acquainted, and the numerous reports from customers who have grown it also testify to its productiveness and high table quality. At our own grounds we have gathered pods 8 inches in length. The haulm is exceptionally sturdy growing to a height of 5-6 feet, and the magnificent pods, which are borne in profusion, contain 12 or 13 peas of superior flavour. For exhibition work this pea is indispensable.” Suttons is certainly not modest about this one, however, by the 1950s the variety had disappeared from its catalogue! Let us know what you think.

More than 1.8m

Carlin (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Grown by our donor's family since the 1890s and originally given to his great-grandfather as a wedding present, this ancient variety dates back to the latter half of the 16th century. Protein rich (about 25%), this classic drying pea is still traditionally eaten in northern England on Carlin Sunday (the Sunday before Palm Sunday). The peas are soaked in brine overnight, boiled and eaten with salt and vinegar or doused in beer or mint sauce. Some say the day commemorates the arrival of a shipload of peas in besieged Newcastle in 1644, saving many from starvation. Attractive pink and lilac flowers are followed by pods of small, brown mottled peas.



Commander (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Dating from the early 1900s and originating in the Netherlands, this pea is excellent for cooking and drying. Strong, tall plants (>2m) produce stunning bicoloured flowers and purple pods with around seven peas in each. Guardian Anne St. John comments: "Wow, what a beauty! Trouble free and easy, a good all-rounder." This pea also proved popular with visitors to the Lost Gardens of Heligan, Cornwall, when it was grown there and was described as "a real stunner"!



Dun (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor has been growing this variety in Gloucestershire since the mid-1980s and says "they're a brilliant pea, very pretty bicoloured pink flowers followed by tightly packed pods of excellent nutty and earthy flavoured peas, perfect for winter soups". Exceeding 1.8m in height, this variety is a prolific producer with each pod containing 6 or 7 peas.



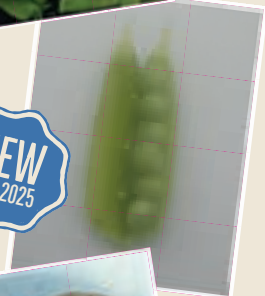
Eat All (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A tall mangetout variety that produces the prettiest pink and maroon bicoloured flowers. Our donor was given them by his grandfather, who had grown them for at least 50 years before he passed away in 1939. A reliable and prolific variety. "Hardy, vigorous, tasty - love it!" says HSL member Hilary Cartmel.



Latvian Grey Pea (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This variety originated in Latvia and has been grown there since around 1900. The term grey peas is given to older forms of pea, and refers to those that can be eaten fresh, without cooking. It produces lovely lilac and dark crimson flowers followed by short, stocky pods packed full of large, succulent peas.



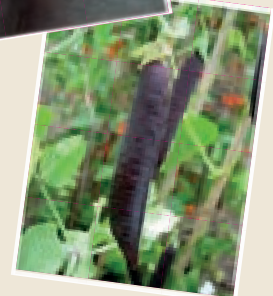
Newick (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

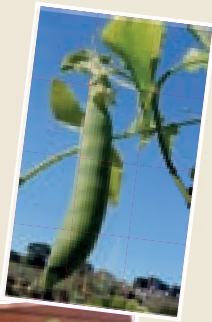
This variety was grown by our donor's family in Sussex during the 1970s. Produces tall plants (>180cm) and white flowers, which are replaced by straight, green pods that are delicious at the mangetout stage as they are neither fibrous nor stringy.



Purple Podded (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Introduced before 1911, this variety produces very tall plants with exquisite bicoloured purple flowers, worthy of a place in the ornamental bed. The fleshy, dark purple pods make perfect mangetout when immature, and the peas themselves are "tasty when eaten fresh", says Seed Guardian Anne St John. However, they're also excellent for drying and cook easily once soaked.





Robinson (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor had grown this variety on his farm in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, since the 1950s, however, he was originally given the seeds by a Mr Robinson, who had acquired them in Scotland. The vigorous plants (>2m) produce long, slim, slightly curved pods over a long season. Extraordinarily sweet, retaining their flavour even when frozen. Guardian and Garden Organic Trustee Adam Alexander says they're the "finest pea" he grows.



Stenu (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A tall, vigorous pea (around 2m) with pods that form a metre or so above the ground, making them easy to pick. Pretty pink and dark purple flowers give way to pods containing an average of 8 peas each. Seed Guardian Karen S says the peas are "sweetly enjoyable eaten raw from the pod, none of them made it to the kitchen", and we can confirm they retain this sweetness when cooked.



Tutankhamun (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Thought to be originally from the garden of Lord Carnarvon at Highclere Castle, Berkshire - who, along with Howard Carter, discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in November 1922. Could this variety be a descendant of the peas allegedly taken from the tomb? A tall pea that produces its white flowers and pods of sweet tasting peas at the top of the plants, making them easy to pick.

Pepper

Curry (15 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor acquired this sweet red pepper in a package of mixed seed from his daughter and son-in-law in Gostivar, Macedonia (then part of the former Yugoslavia), in 1968. He has grown it ever since. He says it's a "vigorous, reliable cropper" and named it "curry" based on the smell and colour of the seed. The fruit has a characteristic upward-pointing growth, only beginning to hang downwards when mature.



Macedonian Sweet (15 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This pepper was among a collection of seeds obtained from the parents of our donor's son-in-law, who had a smallholding near Gostivar, Macedonia. Produces green peppers that turn dark red when mature. Found by our Seed Guardians to perform well even in northern England. One commented that this was "an excellent variety with sweet, juicy flesh". Milder than a chilli, but still has bite.



Skinny (15 SEEDS PER PACKET)

The compact plants of this fairly slow-growing variety are perfect for growing in pots on a windowsill. Produces small (1-1.5cm long), pointed, extremely hot peppers, and care should be taken when handling, preparing and eating them. Prolonged handling of the seed can also cause irritation, so take care if seed saving.



Radish

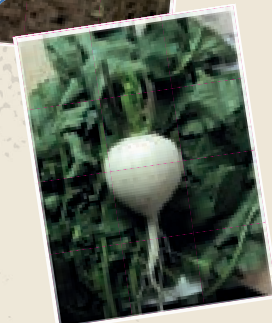
Chinese  (60 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Produces large, round (golf-ball-sized, and more!) radishes with pink skin and crisp white flesh. The roots have a fresh flavour with just the right amount of heat. Ideal for pickling or eating raw in salads.



White Turnip  (60 SEEDS PER PACKET)

The earliest reference we can find for this radish is in *Johnson's Gardeners' Dictionary* of 1842; it also appeared in John Forbes' *Catalogue of Vegetable and Flower Seeds* in 1892. Produces slightly flattened, globe-shaped, white radishes with excellent flavour. Fast growing. Let us know what you think of this one.



Runner Bean

Bob's Black Seeded Beans (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This bean has been handed down through our donor's family for three generations, grown originally in Kent, then Sussex and now Cheshire. The 'Bob' this variety is named after grew the beans for 50 years, before handing it on to our donor to care for. Produces vigorous plants with lots of foliage and pods up to 30cm long with jet black seeds. Our donor says: "I gave up growing any other types many years ago as they never rivalled this one for vigour, taste, cropping and family pride in keeping the bean going."

Brooker Beans (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor has known of this variety since the 1940s as her family have always grown them, preserving the beans by salting. A robust variety that can be sown in the glasshouse for an early crop, or outdoors as late as July and still achieve a good yield of tender beans that only become stringy when over-mature. Shows some frost tolerance too.

Churchfield Black (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

It's thought many gardeners in the Church Fields area of West Bromwich in the Black Country grew this variety, and saved seeds each year. However, the secretary of the Newton Street Allotment Association, West Bromwich (and HSL member), says his grandfather grew them in the late 1800s, and they originally came from the estate of Colonel Churchfield on the South Coast of England, so the name may just be a happy coincidence! Produces medium length, brownish-green pods filled with black beans. Eat them when very young to avoid any stringiness.

Fry (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This white-seeded, ex-commercial variety was donated by Warwick Horticulture Research International. It was first offered by Suttons in 1977, which said: "A strong growing, white flowered variety with slender, smooth, medium length beans. Very productive plants bearing almost stringless pods which are ideal for freezing as well as for use straight from the garden."

Lubenham  (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor began developing this variety from Unwins Enorma back in 1971. He grew it in the village of Lubenham, Leicestershire, along with several other residents, for more than 25 years. He recommends the beans are sown direct in mid-May and harvested regularly, picking the long, green pods while they're sweet and tender.





Meesha  (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Donated to HSL in 2000 by Oldrich Misa, who spent 10 years developing this bean during the 1970s. The name 'Meesha' comes from the phonetic transcription of his surname. Produced commercially by Asmer Seeds and supplied through a number of seed catalogues; when commercial production ceased, Mr Misa continued to grow and save seed from the variety each year until, sadly, he passed away in 2013. It produces scarlet flowers followed by a good yield of sweet, crunchy, great-flavoured pods.

Montacute Runners (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Named after the village in Somerset, it's thought this variety has been grown in the county since the late 19th century. Seed Guardian Adam Alexander describes this as "a very fine bean; heavy cropping and reliable with good flavour". One HSL member contacted us to say that they were "magnificent; sweet, tender and prolific". See what you think.

Sorrel

Noon's Close  (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This variety was given to our donor by the owner of the house once owned by the late Professor Tutin, University of Leicester Botanist and contributor to *The Concise Flora of the British Isles*. The house is in Noon's Close, Stoughton, Leicestershire, hence the variety name. It's a typical broad-leaved sorrel: tasty, but not too acidic, perfect for salads or a sorrel sauce for fish. Can be harvested all year until heavy frosts, a good hardy perennial.



Spinach

King of Denmark  (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A Danish, early summer variety originating in the early 20th century and thought not to run to seed as freely as some other spinach. Produces substantial plants with arrow-shaped leaves, which are delicious in salads when young and when mature, and slightly crumpled, they're equally tasty. Let us know what you think of this one.

Squash

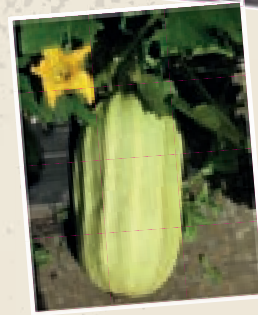
Lady Godiva (6 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Named for its 'naked', hullless seed, rather than any connections with Coventry, this variety had been available commercially for many years but failed to make it onto the UK National List when Britain left the EU. An attractive and vigorous plant with large leaves and long trailing vines that yield large pumpkins with striped skins and flavoursome orange flesh. However, primarily grown for the tasty, shiny, dark green seeds.



Long White Trailing (6 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This heritage variety from the early 20th century produces healthy trailing plants and 35-45cm white or very pale yellow fruits that gradually become darker in colour as they mature. The orange flesh is soft, spongy and tender and surrounded by a hard skin, which makes this variety a good storer.



New England Sugar Pie (6 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Syn. Small Sugar. The original small sugar pumpkin of New England, USA, first described by Fearing Burr in *The Field and Garden Vegetables of America* (1863). Trailing plants produce orange, almost oval, lightly ribbed fruits weighing in at around 2kg with smooth skin and orange, creamy, sweet flavoured flesh. The tough outer shell means they keep well too.



White Serpent (6 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This vigorous vine is a prolific producer of long, pale green squashes that turn yellow as they ripen. Looking more like a cucumber, it has delicious, sweet flesh. Can be picked at courgette size, but if allowed to grow on (to around 60cm) the flesh remains firm and tasty.



Tomato

Bush

Red



Burbank Bush (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Determinate. Bush. This American heirloom was developed by the American plant breeder Luther Burbank in 1914. It cropped well in our tunnels, producing round, deep red, sweet and juicy fruits. The American seed packet says: “GREAT FLAVOR” (underlined twice)!

Burpees Matchless (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Determinate. Bush. Dating back to around 1889, this is another variety from American seed house W Atlee Burpee & Co. The company was so proud of this variety it celebrated its 25th anniversary by featuring the impressive fruit on the cover of its annual catalogue describing it as “the best maincrop tomato”. The dwarf plants produce medium-sized, slightly flattened, round, ribbed fruits that are perfect for slicing and have excellent flavour.

Currant (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Determinate. Bush. According to William Woys Weaver, author of *Heirloom Vegetable Gardening* (1997), this variety was grown in America as early as 1795. Easy to cultivate as no training is required, it will stand any amount of neglect and is perfect for growing in containers. Produces very small (1cm) fruits in abundance.

Riesentraube (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Determinate. Bush. Author William Woys Weaver rediscovered this extraordinary old German variety and uncovered its history. The name translates as ‘huge grapes’, but in Hungary it has a more risqué name alluding to the nipple shape at the base of the fruit and is used exclusively for making wine! It’s high yielding, producing a generous harvest of red fruits the size of a large cherry that have a delicious, tangy flavour.

Salt Spring Sunrise (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Determinate. Bush. The late J James of Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, Canada, developed this very early variety, which performs equally well in both cool and warm summers. Also has shown some blight resistance. The slightly ribbed, orange-red fruits tend to be variable in size but their robust flavour makes them perfect for eating fresh in salads or cooked in soups and sauces.

Other

Garden Peach (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Produces medium sized fruit with an orange/pink colour that really does resemble that of peaches. The skin, however, is smooth; so perhaps it should be Garden Nectarine? A very old variety, thought to date back to the 1850s, it was popular at a time before tomatoes were imported out of season, and deliberately selected to ripen late. Slower to crop than some tomatoes, but the juicy and fresh-flavoured fruits keep well (sometimes into December).



Tiger Tom (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Determinate. Bush. Our donor acquired this variety in 1979 after obtaining seeds from a small seed producer in Devon. It had also been previously supplied commercially by Suttons. Seed Guardian Eluned Paramor says: "It remains number one tomato for flavour! Juicy, sharp and sweet at the same time. Take out the seeds and stuff it with cream cheese". The medium-sized, red and yellow striped fruit are both attractive and delicious. Can be grown indoors but produces better yields outside.



Indeterminate

Red



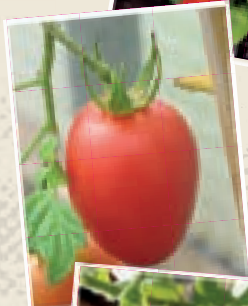
Buffalo Horn (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Our donor was given this tomato by an Italian friend who acquired them while travelling in Provence. Produces vigorous, strong, healthy vines and large, red, horn-shaped fruits in trusses of 4-5. One of our Seed Guardians commented, "This is a very, very good tomato. The fruits are fleshy, rich flavoured and thin-skinned with a sweet taste. Good for cooking or eating raw."



Carlton (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Named after the donor, who was given the seed by a friend in 1976. It's a large, red, beefsteak tomato and is believed to be of Polish origin. It has a lovely flavour, neither sweet nor acid, and its solid flesh makes it perfect for slicing. HSL member Justine Gallaccio says: "Love them; beautiful shape, thin skins, really good flavour." One fruit can provide a meal in itself!



Christel's Plum (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Originally from Germany, this vigorous variety generously bears small (5-8cm) red, plum-shaped fruits with a firm texture and mild flavour. They cook quickly and easily, making them perfect for sauces. Seed Guardian Mark Gore says they "need a sunny spot or to be under glass, and long a season - but then excellent".



Fox Cherry (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

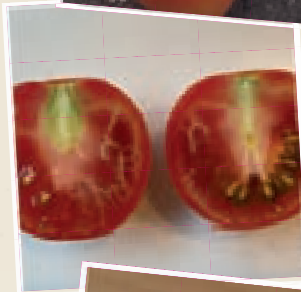
Indeterminate. Cordon. A variety that produces an early crop of red, cherry tomatoes in abundance on long trusses, so they will need strong supports. They will also need the side shoots pinching out regularly. Sweet, tangy and tasty, so great for salads, sandwiches, tomato sauces, or just on their own. One of our Guardians who grows them in NE Scotland says: "Delicious! A winner when compared with Gardeners' Delight."

NEW
FOR 2025



Gaia di Firenze (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Thought to be a rare Italian variety, our donor's daughter was given seeds of this tomato when she visited the Gaia exhibition in Florence in 1991. The dark red, ribbed fruits have smooth, sweet flesh, creamy in texture with few seeds. If seed saving, isolate from other tomatoes that have flowers with protruding stigma.



Homosa (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Bears medium-sized round, red fruits. Seed Guardian Karen S says "well behaved plants produce a plentiful yield". Fruits are of average size and appearance, but she adds: "Taste vastly better than any supermarket tomato... A great variety with a delicious tomatoey flavour."

Imur Prior Beta (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Donated by John Yeoman of The Village Guild, this variety was selected from high altitude areas in the Chilean mountains and developed in Norway for growing in cooler regions. Also thought to be blight resistant. The juicy, red fruits have soft, smooth flesh and are slightly acidic in flavour.

Jugo (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. The leafy plants produce medium-large, reddish-orange plum tomatoes with soft flesh and a delicate flavour that is not too acidic, perfect for cooking and sauces. Seed Guardian Elizabeth Trow says: "Just love this tomato!"

Kenilworth/King George (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Our donor sourced this variety from the last commercial grower who used to supply local shops in Kenilworth, Warwickshire, where, up until the 1960s, it was grown extensively. A classic round (3-4cm across), red tomato with a sumptuous, sweet and herby flavour, perfect for salads and sandwiches. Performs well outside, but best under glass. In a taste test at Ryton, one staff member commented: "An instant reaction from the tastebuds."

Large Red (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. A very old American heirloom variety pre-dating the American Civil War. Fearing Burr (1865) states when the tomato was first cultivated in the USA this variety was, for some time, the only tomato commonly known. Produces dark red, flattened and heavily ribbed fruits, 6-7cm in diameter. The firm flesh has a tasty, slightly acidic flavour. If seed saving, isolate from other tomatoes that have flowers with protruding stigma.

Lister's Protection/Perfection (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Our donor's father and grandfather grew this variety (since around 1926) in their market garden at Carriden, Bo'ness, West Lothian, to sell as plants and, later in the season, fruit. It has a slender stem so will require sound supports and is primarily a glasshouse variety. The round, medium-sized, richly flavoured fruits are at their best, according to our donor, when slightly under-ripe. Thin, deep orange skins have a green blush at the stem-end.

Little Tatyana (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Originated in Azerbaijan and was named after the collector of the seed. This red, mini-beefsteak tomato did very well in taste tests at Garden Organic, the flavour being described as "delicious; sweet with bite"! Guardian Mark Gore uses them for both salads and cooking.



Manx Marvel (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Thought to have originally been bred in the Isle of Man, this variety produces vigorous plants with extremely strong stems (good for windy conditions), large leaves, and red, slightly lumpy fruits that ripen late in the season. Shows good resistance to Verticillium wilt.



Polish Giant (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Our donor acquired this Polish heirloom via the members' Seed Swap pages that used to be a feature in the HSL Catalogue. It produces large, red, deeply ribbed fruits weighing up to a kilogram each! Their mildly sweet flavour and their size make them perfect for slicing in salads or for sandwiches.



Queen of Hearts (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Our donor acquired these seeds from an elderly lady who had been given them many years previously at an RHS seminar. The person delivering the talk was American, and it's assumed the variety was of American origin. The red fruits are thin-skinned, sweet, knobbly and almost heart shaped. Let us know what you think of the flavour.



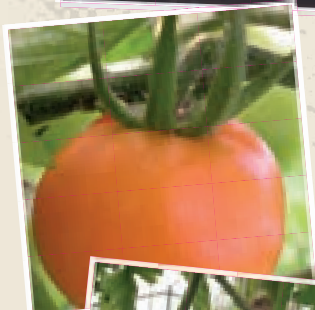
Small Pear Shaped (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. This variety produces very vigorous plants, so will need sturdy supports. The trusses of 8-10 red, pear-shaped and sweet-flavoured fruits are produced in profusion and can be picked right through until October. It also has good storage qualities and shows some resistance to blight.



Srednjevelika (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. The donor of this variety originally acquired it from Ljubljana, Slovenia. He notes this is: "A beefsteak type but not as large. Very firm, ideal for slicing with not a lot of soft pulp in the centre. If left on the vine it has a rich sweet taste. The locals tended to pick them when not quite ripe for a sharper flavour." Crops prolifically for such a large tomato.



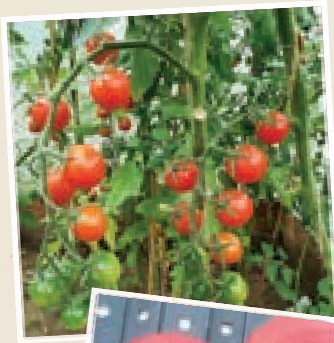
Stonors Most Prolific (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. The donor of this tomato is a 1940s enthusiast and saw this variety mentioned in adverts dating back to at least 1940, before Suttons acquired it from F Stonor of Southampton (breeder of the famous Moneymaker tomato). It made its first appearance in the Suttons Seeds catalogue of 1942. It produces strong plants and small, firm, orange-red fruits with pinkish-red flesh, perfect for eating raw in salads and sandwiches. Also great for tomato sauces.



Stonors No 2 (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Our donor originally saved these seeds from some tomatoes he bought from a local gardener, who had grown the variety for more than 25 years and said the variety was Stonors no. 2. Produces medium-sized, red tomatoes with great flavour, they're also produced over a long period of time.



Sweet Brooksby (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Donated by Rob Croft who acquired the seeds from someone whose brother had bred “a stable, sweet tomato” in 1962 at Brooksby Agricultural College, Leicestershire. It had been grown by family and friends since this time and is now grown, once more, by Seed Guardians at Brooksby College. The tomatoes are red and marble-sized with an exceptionally sweet flavour. Guardians on the Melton Community Allotment found it made delicious soup and pasta sauce, as well as impressing visitors to the allotment who tried it.

Wladeck’s (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Originally brought from Poland after WWII by our donor’s neighbour, Wladeck Neitzgoda, and named after him. This prolific variety can be grown outdoors or under glass, but either way the heavy trusses will require ingenuity to support. Produces large, lumpy, beefsteak-type fruits with fantastic flavour and aroma. Great for slicing in salads, but also cooks well and makes delicious soup. If seed saving, isolate from other tomatoes that have flowers with protruding stigma.

Yellow

Baby Gazzi (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Donated by Italian tomato breeder Suzanne Arreger Perini, this variety produces yellow, golf-ball-sized tomatoes with an attractive orange blush to the base. Best glasshouse grown, or in the sunniest spot in the garden, as it likes heat. The fruits ripen quickly and have a sweet, mild flavour.

Fablonelistnyj (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. This vigorous, late and trouble-free variety produces yellow, slightly-ribbed, golf-ball sized fruits that are very sweet with little acidity. An excellent salad tomato and thought to show some blight resistance too.

Lemon Gazzi (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Another variety created by plant breeder Suzanne Arreger this one produces slightly flattened, ribbed, yellow fruits around 100g in weight. Let us know what you think of the flavour of this tomato. If seed saving isolate from other tomatoes that have flowers with protruding stigma.

Yellow Drop (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Produces hardy, vigorous, pest and disease-free vines laden with small, yellow, pear-shaped fruit. Burpee’s catalogue describe this USA heirloom as its “best tasting yellow mini tomato, sweet and mild”. Let us know what you think.



Other



Giant Tree Tomato (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Vigorous 3-5m plants produce very attractive vines with strong stems and heavy thick leaves but will require space and sturdy supports. The flattened, ribbed, pink fruits have green shoulders and can get quite large (>250g). They have a sweet but mild flavour and few seeds, so great for eating fresh and for cooking. If seed saving isolate from other tomatoes that have flowers with protruding stigma.

NEW
FOR 2025



Pink Gaetano (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Named after the Italian gentleman who took this tomato with him when he emigrated to Australia in the 1950s. It had been grown and saved by him, in his garden in Calabria, but its actual origins are unknown. His name for the variety was Sangue; Italian for blood. It is a dark pink, slightly ribbed, beefsteak variety with a delicious flavour. If seed saving, isolate from other tomatoes that have flowers with protruding stigma.



NEW
FOR 2025

Potato Leaf White (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. This variety produces vigorous plants, so will need strong supports. It has potato leaves and large beefsteak type tomatoes that ripen to a sensational pale cream colour. The flavour and texture of the fruit were described by one HSL member as "outstanding". Mild and non-acid with thin skins, they're great when eaten fresh, in soups or when cooked. Can be grown indoors or out as it's tolerant of both low temperatures and drought conditions. If seed saving, isolate from other tomatoes that have flowers with protruding stigma.



Striped Hollow (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Syn. Schimmeig Striped Hollow. Produces ribbed, pinkish-red fruits striped with golden yellow, which bear more than a passing resemblance to a bell pepper. They're 8-10cm in diameter with firm flesh and, as the name suggests, are hollow in the centre. Ideal for stuffing but have a lovely acidic flavour when eaten fresh.



Direct Debit - the easy way to support Garden Organic

Direct Debit allows you to spread your donations or membership costs throughout the year. Plus, it's the most cost-effective way for us to receive your payment.

Contact our team on 024 7630 8210 or email membership@gardenorganic.org.uk to make the switch.

Semi-determinate

Red

Belhomme's Fortuna Potato Leaf (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Semi-determinate. This potato-leaved variety produces a uniform crop of round, pinkish-red fruits around 5cm in diameter. They have thin skins and sweet, juicy flesh (slice them over a dish!) and have been described by our panel of growers as the best tomato they'd had in a long time. Let us know if you agree.

Cernetu (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Semi-determinate. A variety from Cernetu in Southern Romania, near to the border with Bulgaria. Our donor says: "I hate raw tomatoes, but these are the juiciest, sweetest fruits I have ever tasted." The medium-large, pinkish-red fruits were very popular with HSL volunteers in an unofficial tasting, who agreed these were the best tomatoes they had ever tasted! If seed saving, isolate from other tomatoes that have flowers with protruding stigma.

Joe Atkinson (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Semi-determinate. Donated by tomato expert Terry Marshall. Joe Atkinson was a gardener from Bingley, West Yorkshire, who made his own selection from a variety available during the 1940s, and had grown it regularly since 1949. Produces red, ribbed fruits that are juicy and have excellent flavour. HSL member Jane Hickman says they are "great fresh, but also good for cooking". If seed saving, isolate from other tomatoes that have flowers with protruding stigma.

Lumpy Red (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Semi-determinate. Thought to have originated in Clay County, Kentucky, in around 1900 and has been grown there ever since. It produces medium-large, red, ribbed, beefsteak fruits with 'lumpy shoulders', hence the name. Flavour has a good balance between sweet and acid. If seed saving, isolate from other tomatoes that have flowers with protruding stigma.

Maltese Plum (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Semi-determinate. Our donor was given seeds of this variety by his friend, who had acquired them while on holiday in Malta. A late variety that performs best in a sunny spot outside. Trusses are borne on leaf spurs, so do not grow as a cordon or remove side shoots, and stake well to support the heavy crop produced. The firm, red, plum-type tomatoes are ideal for stuffing.

Pink Cherry (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Semi-determinate. This variety is prolific and hardy, doing well both outdoors and under glass. Its growth habit will require you to pinch outside shoots regularly. The small, plum-shaped fruits begin pink, becoming red once ripe, and have a pleasant, mild flavour.






Yellow

Sutton (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Semi-determinate. Produces large (175-225g), weakly ribbed, ivory to pale yellow fruits, shaped like flattened globes. They have a sweet, fruity flavour and creamy flesh. Let us know what you think of them. If seed saving, isolate from other tomatoes that have flowers with protruding stigma.

Turnip

Malselvnepe Brandhaug  (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originating in the northernmost regions of Norway, this variety produces an almost perfectly round yellow root with firm flesh and a great flavour. It also has excellent storage qualities. Our donor describes this as “a beauty in the garden”.



Our Seed Guardians are Environmental Champions!

We're delighted that our dedicated band of Heritage Seed Library volunteer gardeners and growers have scooped an 'Environment Champion Award' for their work protecting rare vegetables seeds.

More than 200 Seed Guardians nurture heritage seeds and plants on their veg plots and send seed back to the Library for conservation. In September, these seed saviours were named as winners in the community category of the 12th Community Inspiration Awards 2024.

The Community Inspiration Awards are organised by The Community Foundation to recognise outstanding contributions made by staff from public and voluntary sector organisations, businesses and members of the community, whose efforts have made a positive difference in the community and have inspired and motivated others.

The Environmental Champion award recognises an individual or organisation that's been helping to make positive improvements to the environment. The Guardians were commended for the way their work gives people the agency to grow, save, breed, and develop the edible heirlooms and biodiversity of the future.

Would you like to become a Seed Guardian and be part of a UK-wide community helping to conserve heritage varieties?

Find out more at gardenorganic.org.uk/seedguardian




garden.
organic

Can you help by becoming a Variety Champion?

organic since 1958 pioneers

Our heritage varieties are a vital part of our genetic past and, with your help, we can ensure they will be available for future generations.

Become a Variety Champion for a minimum monthly donation of £25 and help our work to bring at risk veg back into the hands of growers.

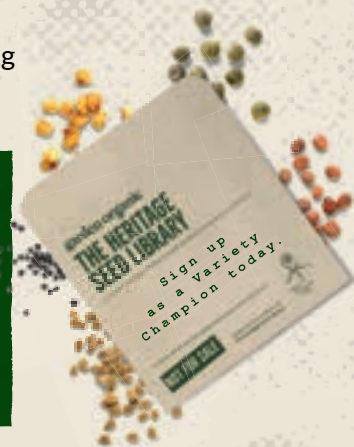
Sign up as a Variety Champion today. or scan me!



- Step 1.** Browse our varieties and select the one you're most interested in or let us choose for you.
- Step 2.** Set up your monthly payment. If you're eligible to Gift Aid your donation we can set this up to make your money go even further.
- Step 3.** Enjoy updates on the Heritage Seed Library and look forward to visiting, meeting the team and getting hands on nurturing, harvesting or tasting our varieties.

As a thank you, you'll receive:

- Annual update on the Heritage Seed library, including pack of seeds available only to Champions.
- Invitation to an annual Champions event to explore behind the scenes of the Heritage Seed Library.
- Recognition as a Variety Champion within our annual seed list (optional).



www.gardenorganic.org.uk



@gardenorganicuk

Garden Organic, Ryton Organic Gardens, Wolston Lane, Coventry, CV8 3LG

Garden Organic, the working name of the Henry Doubleday Research Association, is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 298104) and Scotland (SC046767).

*Variety Champions have the option to opt out of receiving a packet of seeds.

garden organic

Your request - what you need to know

- 1. THE DEADLINE FOR THE RECEIPT OF SEED REQUESTS IS FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY, 2025.** Unfortunately we will not be able to process seed requests received after this date. The earlier you make your request, the more likely you are to receive your first choices. We are unable to send seed outside Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) or to Northern Ireland. If you would like to provide an alternative address within GB or request a refund for your membership, please contact our membership team on membership@gardenorganic.org.uk
2. You are entitled to receive six packets of seed. Please include 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices. If your 2nd or 3rd choice is a different variety and vegetable, fill in both names. We will send your six first choices if available, followed by 2nd or 3rd. If all three choices are unavailable, we will send a substitute to make up your six varieties. Please indicate on the form if you would prefer not to receive substitutes.
3. You can place your request online by visiting www.gardenorganic.org.uk/shop/seeds
4. Please write your choices clearly if making your request by mail. We recommend that you use the table below to keep a copy of your choices and the date you sent your request in.
5. Requests will be completed in order of receipt. We will record the dates of receipt and dispatch.
6. Please allow 28 days for delivery. **If you have not received your seeds within 28 days, please call us on 024 7630 8210.**
7. Each year we are astonished by the generous support that we receive from our members for supporting the Heritage Seed Library. This is one of Garden Organic's most valuable projects and ensures that seeds are saved for generations to come. If you would like to make a financial contribution towards postage and packing this would be very gratefully received and really does help us. Please use the donation form provided on the back of this seed request form or donate online at gardenorganic.org.uk/donate.
8. If you are having difficulties placing your seed request, please telephone 024 7630 8210. We would also recommend resetting your password if it has been some time since you last logged in.
9. Please return your request form before **Friday 28th February 2025 to: HSL Seed Requests, Garden Organic, Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry, CV8 3LG.** Please use a stamp when posting your request. Unstamped mail will not be delivered to us so we will be unable to process your seed request.

Please use this space to note down the varieties you have requested for your own records

Terms and Conditions

The Agreement between us.

The agreement printed below is not a legal document but aims to secure your agreement in spirit to undertake to help us safeguard the seeds. We have no wish to be restrictive in our treatment of the seed and certainly do not have any issues with the sale of plants at fundraising or charitable events, or the exchanging of seed at Seed Swap events or with friends. Our main intention by this agreement is to protect the Heritage Seed Library from commercial exploitation of our seed. We are not suggesting that exploitation is wrong, simply that we would like that to be through discussion and agreement with us.

Your submission of a seed request will be taken as agreement to these terms.

We need to draw attention to the possibility that you may inadvertently pass the seed to someone who then exploits it with no benefit to us. We claim no ownership of the seed ourselves and think no one else should either. But we do claim that without our efforts the seed would not be available at all. We are keen for seed swapping to continue, but hope that you will help us by ensuring that any swapped seed goes to gardeners for their personal use rather than a commercial enterprise.

Agreement for supply of material.

Garden Organic's Heritage Seed Library (HSL) holds all HSL members in trust to observe the spirit of this agreement in order to protect the future of the collection. We ask you to respect the following conditions:

1. You will use the material and any progeny or derivatives thereof for your own **non-commercial** purposes only.
2. You may transfer the material to a third party for non-commercial and personal use only. This includes the exchange or sale of plants.
3. You will discuss with Garden Organic fair and equitable sharing of any benefits arising from any commercial use of the material, including research results and publications, but excluding sale of plants for charitable purposes.
4. You will not transfer the material or any genetic parts of it to any third party for any **commercial** use (including research and breeding) without written agreement between Garden Organic and the third party.
5. You will not claim ownership of any material received its progeny or derivative of the material.

'**Non-commercial use**' means use solely for your own interest or for personal food production, research and trials. This includes any sale of plants or produce raised from HSL seed for charitable or fundraising events.

'**Commercial use**' includes sale of the seed supplied or plants or produce derived from HSL seed (except for charitable and fundraising events), regeneration of the seed variety for sale, breeding or use of genetic parts for breeding and distribution for promotional purposes.

'**Fair and equitable recompense**' - this will be a mutually agreed arrangement.

South West

Bridport Seed Swap

Bridport Community Shed, Mountfield, Near Bedford Place, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3JP
Date: **Saturday 25/01/2025**
Admission: Free
Email: bridportcommunityshed@gmail.com

Community RiseUp Seed Saver Swap

Mount Pleasant Eco Park, Chapel Hill, Porthtowan, Cornwall, TR4 8HL
Date: **Saturday 01/02/2025**
Admission: Free
Website: c-riseup.blogspot.com
Facebook: [riseupkernow](https://www.facebook.com/riseupkernow)

Lostwithiel Plant and Seed Swap

Lostwithiel Community Centre, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0HE
Date: **Saturday 08/02/2025**
Admission: Free
Tel: **Lesley Bower 07946 343 065 / Lostwithiel Community Centre 01208 872207**

Shaftesbury Seed Fair

Shaftesbury Town Hall, High Street, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8LY
Date: **Saturday 15/02/2025**
Admission: Free
Website: www.beansandherbs.co.uk

South Brent Seed Swap

Old School Community Centre, Totnes Road, South Brent, Devon, TQ10 9JW
Date: **Saturday 15/02/2025**
Admission: Free
Email: Halfmoonfield@planetmail.com

Glastonbury Seedy Sunday

St Benedict's Church, Church Lane, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 9JQ
Date: **Sunday 16/02/2025**
Admission: donations please
Facebook: [glastonburyseedsap](https://www.facebook.com/glastonburyseedsap)

SHARE, GROW, EAT

Boniface Centre, Church Lane, Crediton, Devon, EX17 2AH
Date: **Saturday 22/02/2025**
Admission: Free, donations welcome
Email: info@sustainablecrediton.org.uk

Forest of Dean Big Seed Swap 2025

The Community Centre, 2 Bailey Hill, Yorkley, Gloucestershire, GL15 4RS
Date: **Saturday 22/02/2025**
Email: forestfoodnetwork@fvaf.org.uk

Bristol Seed Swap

The Trinity Centre, Trinity Road, Bristol, BS2 0NW
Date & Time: **Sunday 23/02/2025 12.30pm - 4.30pm**
Admission: Free
Website: www.bristolseedswap.com
Facebook: [bristol.seedswap](https://www.facebook.com/bristol.seedswap)
Instagram: [@bristolseedswap](https://www.instagram.com/bristolseedswap)
X: [@seedswapbristol](https://www.x.com/seedswapbristol)

Exeter Seed Swap 2025

Positive Light Projects, 184-187 Sidwell Street, Exeter, Devon, EX4 6RD
Date: **Sunday 02/03/2025**
Admission: Free, donations welcome
Website: www.exeterseedbank.co.uk
Email: exeterseedbank@gmail.com

Doynton Village Seed Swap and Plant Sale

Doynton Village Hall, Toghill Lane, Doynton, South Gloucestershire, BS30 5SY
Date: **Saturday 08/03/2025**
Admission: Free
Email: janegirling@hotmail.co.uk

Get Seedy! with Seedy Saturday

Timsbury Conygre Hall, North Road, Timsbury, Nr Bath, Somerset, BA2 0JQ
Date: **Saturday 08/03/2025**
Admission: **£2 Adults, under 16s Free**
Website: www.seedysaturday.org.uk
Email: seedswap@getseedy.co.uk
Tel: **07849 055 339**

Sedgemoor Seed Swap

Purplespoon Cafe, Church Street, Highbridge, Somerset, TA9 3AG
Date: **Saturday 22/03/2025**
Facebook: [Folia Fields](https://www.facebook.com/FoliaFields)



Enjoy the Heritage Seed Library over & over again...

Become a life member of the Heritage Seed Library for a one-off payment of £500 and support this essential resource year after year.

Your membership helps connect people with heritage seeds, boosts biodiversity, and ensures that precious varieties are conserved for future generations to enjoy.

Upgrade your membership and enjoy a lifetime alongside us

email us at membership@gardenorganic.org.uk or telephone us on 024 7630 8210



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1998
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Heritage Seed Library taste feedback

We're always keen to hear what you think of these varieties. Let us know by completing and returning this form to HSL, Garden Organic, Wolston Lane, Coventry, CV8 3LG, or email hsl@gardenorganic.org.uk. We welcome your photos too so do please email us any that you're happy for us to use.

1. Vegetable: Variety:

2. How did you prepare it for eating - ate raw / cooked in a particular way?

3. What did you think to the vegetable's appearance? Please tick as appropriate.

Excellent Very good Good Satisfactory Disappointing Very disappointing

Any other comments on the appearance - attractive / ugly / unusual, etc?

4. How did you find the flavour?

Excellent Very good Good Satisfactory Disappointing Very disappointing

Any other comments on the flavour - bitter / sweet / sour, etc?

5. How did you find the texture?

Excellent Very good Good Satisfactory Disappointing Very disappointing

Any other comments on the texture - crunchy / chewy / stringy / hard / soft, etc?

6. Did appearance/flavour/texture change when prepared for eating, eg. did it change colour when cooked?

7. What did you think of it overall - would you choose this variety again?

8. Can we use your comments in our published variety descriptions and promotional material?

Yes, but use anonymously. Yes, my name is No, use for reference only.

9. Please provide your contact details in case we need to clarify any information with you. We will not share these or use them for any other purpose.

Thank you!

Seed request form

Please return this whole page immediately, or by Friday 28th February 2025 at the latest

Step 1 – Your details

Name

Postcode

Member no.

Step 2 – Your seed choices

	1st Choice		2nd Choice		3rd Choice	
	Veg	Variety	Veg (if different)	Variety	Veg (if different)	Variety
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						

Step 3 – Further information

If you would prefer not to receive a substitute, even if that means you receive fewer than 6 packets please tick here:

I would like to include a donation of to support the work of the Heritage Seed Library (see overleaf).

If you would be happy to receive your catalogue be email next year please provide your email address:

Making an additional donation to the Heritage Seed Library

We are extremely grateful for your membership subscription, which provides vital support towards the continuation of the Heritage Seed Library.

However, there is always more we can do. If you would like to make an additional donation towards this work, please complete the form below and return it with your request.

Alternatively, donations can be made online at gardenorganic.org.uk/donate.

PLEDGE A REGULAR DONATION BY DIRECT DEBIT
TEL. 024 7630 8210
MEMBERSHIP@GARDENORGANIC.ORG.UK

I would like to include a donation of

to support the work of the Heritage Seed Library.

I have enclosed a cheque/postal order/CAF cheque made payable to Garden Organic.

Please debit my credit/debit card (details below):

Card number

/

Valid from

/

Expiry date

/

Security no.

(last 3 digits on the signature strip)

Signature

Date

/

Issue no. (maestro only)

I would like an acknowledgement of my donation

Thank you!

With grateful thanks

What a challenging year 2024 has been for vegetable growers, including those who help us produce the seeds you'll be selecting this year.

The Heritage Seed Library (HSL) team have grown more varieties than ever, cultivating every square inch of the growing space at Ryton and using ingenious methods to ensure we squeeze in as many varieties as possible. This has meant we're using much more outside growing space than we have previously, and experiencing the same trials and tribulations as our volunteer Seed Guardians - who don't have the benefit of polytunnels or large glasshouses to rely on.

A cold, wet spring was followed by a disappointingly grey and wet summer, with only short periods of sunshine. The slugs and snails have staked their place in many a garden, taking bean and pea plants before they've had much of a chance to sprout, and thriving in the, seemingly never-ending, rain showers.

When autumn came early, with more rain and cold temperatures the season was cut short and we worried just how much seed we would see returned this year. We needn't have worried! Our Seed Guardians have, once more, come through all the weather perils, and packages of all sizes and shapes have arrived on our doorstep. That's what our Guardians are good at, carrying on despite everything that's thrown at them. This year, they've been battling away difficulties like never before.

In total, 140 Seed Guardians grew HSL varieties in their gardens and allotments this year, covering 68 varieties across eight vegetable types. Quite an achievement! Twenty-six new Seed Guardians took seed from us for the first time in 2024, with nine more joining later in the year. They will take on their first orphans in spring 2025.

Not only do Guardians work hard to produce seeds, but they also continue to provide vital feedback on how the varieties perform in their location. In the autumn, our Guardians were named as 'Environmental Champions' for their efforts in the 2024 Community Inspiration Awards. Read more on page 33. Would you like to become a Seed Guardian and be part of a UK-wide community helping to conserve heritage varieties? Find out more at gardenorganic.org.uk/seedguardian

Our volunteer team at Ryton has also grown this year, with new members joining those who continue to support the HSL team across a wide range of tasks. From weeding to hand pollinating, harvesting to seed packeting, they see the full cycle of seed production. This year they've filled close to 40,000 packets with the seeds, six of which you'll soon be receiving.

Our volunteer team support us in every task, which helps us conserve our wonderful collection of heritage vegetables - and make them available to our members. Year-on-year, we couldn't be more grateful for their support.

**garden.
organic**

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