



One Seed at a Time

A seed bank for the Southeast

The *One Seed At A Time Project*, launched by the Carolina Farm

Stewardship Association in conjunction with the Seed Saver's Exchange, is an organic seed bank dedicated to saving the biodiversity

of heirloom southeastern vegetables, herbs, grains, and flowers. As seed saving has become less a part of our culture, hundreds of heirloom varieties are on the verge of being lost. This bank will play a crucial roll in preserving our heritage for us and for our future. We are asking you to support us in this important work.

Our Goals

➤ **Seeking out and collecting samples of the heirloom varieties** that are currently being raised and banked by farmers and gardeners in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee.

➤ **Banking these seeds** both here in the Southeast and also at the Seed Saver's Exchange in Iowa.

➤ **Regularly growing out all of the collected varieties** at least every five years to ensure their viability today and for generations to come

➤ **Enlisting the support of the network of amateur and professional seed savers** built up by the Saving Our Seed project.

Save Our Vegetable Heritage

Seed savers and seed businesses from around the country are excited about this project. There are similar seed banks already set up in other regions of the U.S., until now, there has been no such bank in the Southeast and we need to fix this now if we are to save our vegetable heritage.

Seed saving organizations and foundations from around the country have indicated they are interested in supporting this project, but for it to succeed, we also need support of folks in our region, folks like you.



How to Help

Please consider making a donation to the project. To do so, either visit our website at www.savingourseed.org and click on the *One Seed at a Time* link or mail your donation today!

Yes! I care about preserving our vegetable heritage.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____

Donation: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100
 Other \$ _____

Check payable to:
The Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
PO Box 448
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Thank You.

Currently, the largest seed businesses in the world are working to buy up all of the smaller businesses. As part of this process, they are patenting tens of thousands of open-pollinated plant varieties and the genetic base pairs that make them up that would have once been considered to be in the public domain.

The only way to keep a public variety from being patented by these large seed dealers is to document it and preserve a sample, as the *One Seed at a Time* project will do!

This project will have immeasurable value for the sustainable agriculture community in the southeast and throughout the country. There is a deep and rich list of drought resistant cultivars that were once grown and maintained in the Southeast, but their germplasm is rapidly disappearing. While searching and banking these cultivars, we will undoubtedly find exciting varieties to reintroduce to folks. Furthermore, as culinary fashions change with time, it is likely that some strains that were popular in the past but are not in favor today will be again prized in the future.

Also, as climate change impacts the United States, the traditional weather of the Southeast (extended periods of drought interrupted by heavy rains, hot humid summers) will likely become more common throughout the Northeast, Midwest, and Southwest. It is likely that the varieties in the One Seed at a Time seed bank will provide crucial breeding stock for developing varieties to succeed in the new climate.

Making the facility succeed will be quite a large undertaking. First of all, we will need to reach out to seed savers of all ages to do our best to procure all of the cultivars we can. After that, we will need to grow all of the accessions out regularly to ensure the last of the seed does not lose viability. This will require a great deal of space and labor. We will also network with folks interested in saving small quantities of seed for the project. Though it will be a lot of hard work, there is no doubt in my mind that the future of American agriculture will benefit immensely from the effort for generations to come

Please consider supporting the project by making a donation or volunteering to help raise seed for us. All donations are tax deductible.

Contact Us

If you are interested in raising seed for the project, or would like to learn more about seed saving, contact Cricket Rakita at:

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