

The Heritage Seed Library 2026 Seed List

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

166

varieties to
choose from

91

certified
organic
varieties

14

new varieties
for 2026

garden.
organic

est. 1958
of garden
seed

HERITAGE SEED LIBRARY
50
years
1975-2025

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Photo credits

Carrot London Market	Carol Baxter
Climbing French Bean Bob and Mary	Liz Ramsay
Climbing French Bean Mrs Lewis's Purple Podded	Isobel Meyer-Graft
Dwarf French Bean Black Coco	Edmund East
Dwarf French Bean Early Warwick	Martyn Wastie
Kale Ragged Jack	Jane Jennifer
Lablab Bean Ying's Lablab, Melon Cantalun	
& Melon Green Nutmeg	Katie Butler
Lettuce Northern Queen	Adam Wood
Pea Avi Joan	Adam Alexander
Pea Early Capucijner	Lynne Price
Pea Eat All	Hilary Cartmel
Pea Mummy's Pea	Diane Ketcher
Pea Parsley	David Brooks
Pea Prince of Prussia	Jo Welch
Pea Stephens	Linda Barrett
Pea Stokesley	David & Judith Brooks
Pepper Long Green Buddha	Sandra Slack



HERITAGE
SEED
LIBRARY

Welcome

Welcome to the 2026 Seed List – another bumper offer of heritage varieties for you to browse, choose and enjoy!



This year we are offering 166 varieties including a new kale mix of all three of the varieties of kale we have on offer this year. We are also delighted to introduce 14 rediscovered varieties. These include Feuille De Chene lettuce. This productive and easy to grow lettuce, which translates as 'oak leaf', produces loose heads of 'nutty flavoured' leaves that are great for cut-and-come-again, and for harvesting whole when mature. Reputed to be slow to bolt and unattractive to slugs, real bonus for the organic grower. More than 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 that the rest have been grown in the spirit of the organisation.

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

The seed list is available at www.gardenorganic.org.uk/seedlist, 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 will need to have your email address on record with us 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 Tuesday 31st March 2026.

2026 marks our 50th anniversary, and we know that the work of the Heritage Seed Library is more important than ever. We need to continue to find and share an increasing number of varieties, as well as protect the ones we have already secured in this unique, living collection. Could you support us by becoming a 'Variety Champion' and supporting us with a regular gift to develop the Heritage Seed Library? Please take a look at page 15 for more information – you will spot available varieties throughout the seed list. A massive thank you to those who are already championing a variety.

As always, all of us at the Heritage Seed Library team are extremely grateful for your support. We know that these amazing varieties and their conservation mean as much to you as they do to us, and we are extremely grateful for your backing and generosity.

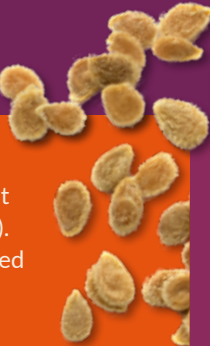
Happy growing!

With best wishes from myself and the team,

Catrina Fenton
Head of the Heritage Seed Library

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

Contact us
Tel. 024 7630 8210
membership@gardenorganic.org.uk



Amaranth



Mr Jefwa's (100 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Ugandan Asian, Mr Jefwa, acquired these seeds when visiting a friend in Zealand in the late 1990s. At home, it was found to be a tasty edible crop, and he continued to grow it and save seeds. Also beautiful as an ornamental with dark purple-red flower spikes.

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



Avon Early (40 SEEDS PER PACKET)

One of a series of innovative breeding lines from the former National Vegetable Research Station at Wellesbourne (now Warwick HRI, part of Warwick University), it remained a stalwart variety amongst gardeners for many years. An early, prolific and fast-growing round-rooted type; Lawrence Hills states in *The Vegetable Finder* that it matures in about 10 weeks. Excellent sweet flavour; both juicy and crunchy when young.



Ukrainian (40 SEEDS PER PACKET) THIS VARIETY NEEDS A CHAMPION.

This variety was donated by Unwin's Seeds in 1992. It has tender flesh, which is easy to peel, so is the perfect choice for salads. It's also great for making a tasty borscht: cabbage, beetroot and tomato soup.

Broad Bean



Jack Geddes (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

These beans were passed to our donor's grandfather in 1930. He grew them until 1980 and handed them down to his son, our donor's uncle, who continued their cultivation until 1996. Once thought lost until a rediscovered jar of seeds ensured their safety. Produces long pods full of flavoursome beans.



Rentpayer (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This variety was passed to our donor by her husband's aunt who had been growing them since the mid-1960s when they were available commercially from Dobies. The beautiful white, speckled-black flowers have a delicious scent and are followed by lumpy pods filled with delicious, bright green beans.

Brussels Sprout



Bedford Winter Harvest (40 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Available commercially when the Heritage Seed Library was established in 1975 but then disappeared from sale. Strong and hardy plants produce dark green, medium-sized sprouts from November to February. The dark, firm buttons are available over a long picking period. Sow from March to early April either outdoors or under frames. 30-36 weeks maturity.



Wroxtton (40 SEEDS PER PACKET) THIS VARIETY NEEDS A CHAMPION.

Originally developed by Lord North's head gardener at Wroxtton 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



Green Wonder (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This ex-commercial variety was submitted by Clucas seed merchants, as Clucas Green Wonder, for inclusion in the Wisley Summer Cabbage Trials in 1966. It was included in the 1972 UK National List but disappeared soon after. Produces large, solid, crisp heads with green outer leaves. When the heads are halved, the crisp inner layers are much paler and almost white.



Kempsey (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Syn. Offenham Kempsey. The listing in the 1991 edition of Yates Seed Catalogue suggests this variety is a good alternative for the popular variety Wintergreen but has a slightly more compact growth pattern. Cropping through autumn into spring, we found it produces plants with lots of leafy growth, ideal for spring greens, and will need plenty of growing space. When cleaned, heads can weigh more than 2kg.



Scarisbrick (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-leafed heads of rounded dark-green leaves with white veins.



Wiam (50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

The name translates as 'Wow' which suggests that the cabbage is a little special! We discovered a reference to this German variety from 1970, which states it was: "obtained from a cross between Viennese and short stemmed Amager (aka Danish Ballhead, circa 15th century)". It produces early grey-green cabbages with tight white centres. Let us know what you think of this one.

Carrot



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 Guiheneuf in *The Garden* (1876) as "an English variety, readily distinguished from any other. It's said to have originated in Altrincham, 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.



Egmont Gold (100 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originally from Yates of Australia, this tapering, pale orange, main-crop variety is good for late sowing. It was brought to the UK from New Zealand by the gardener at the Bishop's Palace, Wells, in 1998. Described in 1967 in the Pedigree Seeds Catalogue as "without doubt the most tender and fully flavoured main crop carrot offered".



John's Purple ORGANIC
(100 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Named after our donor John who, in the 1970s, developed a pure line of purple carrots from four he found in a bag given to him (to feed his rabbits) by an allotment neighbour. He passed on some of his seeds to Horticulture Research International, now part of Warwick University, for their long-term preservation. With John's consent, some were released to us. John describes them as "crisp and flavoursome".



London Market ORGANIC
(100 SEEDS PER PACKET)
THIS VARIETY NEEDS A CHAMPION.

Originally from Finland, this traditional early 'short horn' type carrot has very wide, stumpy, deep red-orange roots. Shows some resistance to both drought and carrot root fly. Seed Guardian Anne notes they have a mild flavour and are good boiled, steamed or grated in salads. They freeze (un-blanchd) and store well.



Manchester Table ORGANIC
(100 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This variety is still commercially available in both Australia and New Zealand, which is where our donor picked up his seeds. Productive and vigorous, it produces crunchy, deep orange, cylindrical roots up to 20cm long, with a lovely, sweet flavour. Commercial catalogues describe it as "outstanding" - what do you think?

Climbing French Bean

Coloured pod



B&B
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor acquired this white-flowered bean from a friend in Sweden, though it's originally from the USA.

A little later than other varieties, he says: "It produces a large crop of meaty, yellow pencil pods over 20cm long, with 10 beans per pod. Excellent flavour as green beans, either hot or for bean salad. One of the best beans of the many I have tried." Seed colour white.



Blue Queen
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor was given this bean in 1950 by a gardener from Quenington House, Gloucestershire, who said

they should be "looked after" as they were no longer available to buy. They were identified in 1994 by Ron Bateman of Radio Oxford as 'Blue Queen'. This hardy variety produces slim, purple, stringless pods, 15-20cm in length which turn green when cooked. Sweet and tender when eaten young, they also retain their flavour when frozen. Seed colour cream.



Brejo ORGANIC
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A Native American heirloom variety producing vigorous vines (up to 2.5 metres) with lilac flowers followed by a generous crop of flat, straight, stringless green pods, which develop red

mottling when mature. Our donor found this bean does well in wet springs, which may prove useful in the UK. A heavy cropper producing pods in abundance. Seed colour creamish with black mottling.



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 purple stripes and speckles.



Dinah's Climbing Blue ORGANIC
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originally from France, this variety was given to our donor - after whom it's named - by a former employer in 1971. A vigorous and productive bean, producing plants with purple stems, dark leaves and pink-purple flowers followed by dark purple, stringless pods. Tender and tasty even when mature. Seed colour white.



District Nurse ORGANIC
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor was given these beans by her stepdaughter, a district nurse who had originally been passed them by an elderly lady in Cardiff. She describes them as "a delightful bean with pretty lilac flowers, followed by dramatically coloured pods; green splashed with navy blue". Our Seed Guardians experienced very few pest and disease problems with this variety. Seed colour pale cream to buff with purple stripes and speckles.



Hodgkin ORGANIC
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor was given these seeds by a friend whose father had grown the variety since the 1940s. The bean is named after the father, and the seeds had been passed down through the Hodgkin family since that time. The bean produces pinkish-mauve flowers followed by flat, tender, mottled purple and green pods. Seed colour buff with dark purple stripes and speckles.



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 that this bean could not be bought commercially anymore and believed it to be 'Purple Pod', mentioned in a 1979 Percy Thrower book. The tall (around 2m), purple-stemmed plants produce small purple flowers 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.



O'Driscoll
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

These bicoloured beans were given to our donor (after whom the variety is named) by his father, who had grown and saved them for many years. Vigorous and prolific, it's earlier than many French beans. Seed Guardian Ian Thomas describes them as "a pleasure to grow". Flat, green pods flecked with purple follow mauve flowers. Can be eaten as whole pods when young or left to mature and shelled. Seed colour buff with dark purple stripes and speckles.



Polish Climbing
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originally from Poland, though acquired by our donor at a Belgian seed swap. Lilac flowers are followed by slender, 'snake-like' pods, bright green streaked with very dark purple. It matures quickly; but use fresh as the pods are tasty and stringless. Seed Guardian Ann Rutter was suitably impressed. She says "they wouldn't look amiss in the flower garden". Seed colour pale cream to buff with purple stripes and speckles.



Purple Giant
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor acquired this highly vigorous bean in Australia. An unusual variety with purple flowers, stems, and pods, though these turn green when cooked. A late-flowering, heavy cropper with stringless pods that can be eaten fresh, or the beans can be podded and used dried. In either case our donor suggests that we should “classify them as a tender delicacy with very good flavour”. Seed colour creamish.



Romanian
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originally from Vrancea in the East of Romania, these productive beans are hardy with good disease resistance. Traditionally sown amongst maize, which act as a support for the vines to climb. Produces tall plants (>2m) with white flowers followed by slightly curved green pods. As this is a primarily a drying bean, wait until the pods develop their red stripes to harvest the beans. Seed colour white.



Wild Pigeon Bean
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Thought to be of Iroquois Indian origin, this variety was collected in 1916 by Canadian anthropologist FW Waugh in Ontario, Canada. The donor, William Woys Weaver, notes that the name refers to the dried bean's colour: grey and speckled like a wild pigeon. Known in North America as a ‘cut-short bean’ or semi-pole bean, referring to the runner (around 1m high) it sends out, on which the pods are produced. Used traditionally as a dried bean. Seed colour buff with black speckles (or reversed).

Green pod



Black Delgado
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This semi-climbing variety produces lilac flowers followed by a plentiful crop of green pods. These can be a little stringy; however, it's perfect as a drying bean. Thought to have originated with the Zapotec Civilisation of the Oaxaca Valley, Southern Mexico, who used it not only soups and stews but also as a dye for women's black shawls. Seed colour black.



Blacksmith's Bean
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This bean originated in Broxton, Essex, and was given to our donor by an old man who had been growing them and saving their seeds since before WWII. Grows to about 1.8m with pinkish-lilac flowers and pale green, slightly curved, stringless pods that become purple veined when mature. The whole pods have sweet and nutty flavour, but also perfect as a shelling bean. Seed colour dark purple.



Bob and Mary
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This tasty and prolific bean was donated by Seed Guardian Liz, 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.



Bonne Bouche
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originating in the city of Rouen, in the Normandy Region of 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 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.



Box
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This white-flowered pea bean will crop reliably and prolifically in the British climate. Seed Guardian Jane says “the beans are tasty at whatever stage they're picked”. The stringless pods provide fresh, tender and delicious haricots when picked young, and are also perfect for shelling. As a dried bean they resemble pretty little bicoloured bird's eggs, ideal for winter storage and for use in soups and stews. Seed colour bicolour pale cream to buff/maroon.



George's
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Thought to have originated in Poland, this variety produces creamish-white flowers followed by long yellow-green pods. Can be used fresh as a succulent, stringless green bean, ideal for salads. Alternatively, the half-white and half-red, sometimes mottled, dried beans make an attractive addition to soups and stews. Bicoloured white and tan with purple stripes and speckles.



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.



Hamburg
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor's family has grown this bean since 1850. Thought to have originated in Harsefeld, near Hamburg, Germany, but brought to the UK, via Spain, during the Napoleonic Wars. Both attractive and hardy with pods, in which even the immature beans are visible. These pods are tender and stringless when young and the beans retain their texture and flavour after freezing. Seed colour white.



Hewitt
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

The local squire passed this bean to the father of our donor, and it was named after their family. They produce robust, hardy, vigorous plants around 1-2m in height, and flowers with white standard petals and very pale green wing petals. The pods are flat, short and tender and filled with flavourful beans that can be podded, steamed and eaten green. But principally a drying bean with a sweet and nutty flavour. Seed colour bicoloured white and buff with dark purple stripes and speckles.



John's Beans
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

THIS VARIETY NEEDS A CHAMPION. Gardening writer Andi Clevely was sent these beans by a reader in response to an article he had written for *The Garden* in May 2001. The reader had, in turn, been given them by his father during the 1960s. The ‘John’ after whom the variety is named is actually ‘Giovanni’, the Sicilian gardener who originally brought the seeds to the UK. They produce white flowers followed by prolific clusters of stringless pods. The pods are delicious when young, and the dried beans have a lovely nutty flavour. Seed colour creamish.



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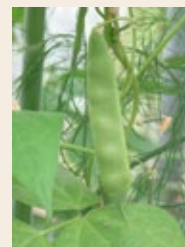
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Old Homestead (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originally introduced in 1864, the 1909 seedsman HW Buckbee described this vigorous variety in just three words: "has no equal". The clusters of long, (20-25cm) stringless pods are produced

later than some other varieties but over an extended season, and packed full of tasty beans. It's also been found to be rust resistant. Cooks well when young, also good for freezing. This variety is synonymous with Kentucky Wonder, a variety currently included in the European Common Catalogue, so it's likely that this will be its last appearance in our catalogue. Once it's gone, it's gone! Seed colour cream.



Pea Bean Inca (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor acquired these seeds from a street market in Inca, Majorca, that sold only local produce. Growing to around 1.8-2m in height, it produces delicate, cream flowers followed by large,

flat, pods that have a mild flavour and are stringless when young. The dried beans make an interesting addition to soups and stews. Seed colour bicoloured purple and white with purple spots.



Percy Parker (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

THIS VARIETY HAS A CHAMPION.

Our donor was given these seeds by a friend who had, in turn, been given the beans by Percy Parker himself. Percy had grown

this variety since World War Two in Barcombe, East Sussex. Unfortunately, Percy passed away, but his name lives on in this lovely bean. The strong and productive plants have white flowers followed by long, straight, flat, stringless green pods. Seed colour white.



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, USA. 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 is a great drying bean. Seed colour pinkish brown with brown stripes.



Turkey Crow (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Delightfully named, this bean has its origins in the Appalachians. It is said to have been removed from the crop of a dead turkey by a hunter in the 19th century, hence the name, though we're a little

dubious about this claim! It has multiple stems at the base of the plant and produces two or three leaders. The white flowers fade to apricot and are followed by green pods. Can be eaten as green beans but it's also a great bean for drying. Seed colour pale grey with dark grey speckles.



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.



Waley's Pea Bean 
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor believes these bicoloured beans were found in Spain and brought to Britain in the 1950s by her late father, Frank Waley, who was a plant hunter and well-known daffodil expert. Thought to perform best when sown later (May-June) and seem particularly well-suited to dry conditions. The young pods are delicious parboiled and tossed in butter. Let us know what you think. Seed colour bicolour brown and white.

Cucumber



741 Peking China
(6 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor acquired seeds of this cucumber from Tianjin, near Beijing, China. A classic dark-skinned variety with a knobbly surface that can be a little prickly. The deliciously crisp fruits grow to an impressive 60cm (2 ft), so are perfect for slicing. Staff at Ryton enjoyed the taste, describing them as “tangy”, “nice and savoury”, and “plenty of flavour”.



Jordanian
(6 SEEDS PER PACKET)

The green fruits of this cucumber have smooth, glossy skins and lime green striping, and although a little thick skinned they're easy to peel. Produced an average of 18 small cucumbers per plant when trialled at Ryton. Seed Guardian Gill Browning says, “it looked good, tasted good and grew well”. What more can you ask for?

Dwarf French Bean

Coloured pod



Arranesco 
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Donated in the early 1990s by Harlow Carr Botanic Garden, Harrogate. Prolific and early, with attractive pale pink flowers, this mild-flavoured bean has slender, yellow-green, flat pods that are best eaten when young and tender. Keep picking the pods as this encourages more to be produced. Seed colour light brown.



Bob's Best
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

THIS VARIETY NEEDS A CHAMPION.
Our donor has grown this variety since the 1980s after being given seeds by an allotment neighbour. It's an intermediate variety producing two to three leaders that will climb to around 70cm. Although, if planted closely (about 6cm apart) as our donor does, they shouldn't need any staking as the plants will support each other. Pick them very young if eating the purple pods, as they get stringy when mature, or pod the beans and enjoy them that way. Seed colour pale cream to buff.



Dwarf Horticultural 
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A compact, yet vigorous and prolific variety that produces pretty, pale pink flowers. These are followed by flat, straight, tender pods which turn from green to yellow with pink marbling. The pods are delicious when eaten young, but this is really a shelling bean which are rich and delicious, perfect in salads. The seeds are also particularly pretty when dried, ideal for use in succotash. Seed colour pale cream to buff with maroon speckles.



Gauk
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This variety has been grown on the Island of Gotland, Sweden since the 19th century. Pale pink and white flowers are followed by large green and carmine striped pods. Said to be adapted to harsh weather conditions, certainly proven by one HSL member who grows in the windy conditions of coastal Cumbria, and early to flower and pod. Seed colour pale cream to buff with maroon spots.

Green pod



Black African Bean 
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

One of the many varieties donated to the Heritage Seed Library by John Yeoman, formerly of The Village Guild, who suggests that this bean is ideal for small spaces or containers. It will require some support, though, as it's an intermediate type (between climber and dwarf). The pretty lilac flowers are followed by light green, slightly curved pods, which are delicious when young and tender. Seed colour black.



Black Becky 
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This American heirloom produces sturdy, drought tolerant plants that will throw out the occasional runner to a height of around 1m. The pretty pinkish-purple flowers are followed by oval, green pods that can be eaten whole when very young, but it's best enjoyed as a dried bean. Let us know what you think of the flavour. 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.



Blue Bloom 
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This old variety, originating in the Kentucky Hills, produces bushy plants, but will also send out one or two leaders. Pretty lilac flowers are followed by dark green pencil pods that cling to the seeds and become mottled reddish purple when they mature and are left to dry. Seed colour pale cream to buff.



Early Warwick
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Known in England before 1890, this bean is early, reliable and particularly prolific considering its size. Compact plants produce lilac flowers followed by green pods, which are stringless when young and just as tasty when used as a dried bean. Seed Guardian Eluned found it “thrived on drought, deluge, neglect and TLC”! Seed colour pale cream to buff with maroon mottles.



Ernie's Big Eye
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Donated in the early 1980s by an American member, this selection of the ancient 'Trout' variety produces pale green, luscious young pods, or, if allowed to dry, tasty white seeds spotted with dark burgundy. Carries pods high on the compact plants so may need staking later in the season. Found by Seed Guardians to be particularly disease resistant. Seed colour white with dark burgundy-brown spots.



Hundreds and Thousands (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor obtained these seeds from a seed swap in Llanidloes, however, they are thought to have originally come from Ukraine.

The pale pink/lilac flowers are followed by flat, green pods which bulge around the beans as they swell. Primarily a drying bean; our donor uses them for their home-made baked beans as they have a nutty flavour and creamy texture. Seed colour greenish yellow.



Montezuma's Red ORGANIC (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Early and prolific, this variety is described as a dwarf bean, but tends to

climb to around 1-1.5m and will need some support. Small creamish-yellow flowers are followed by flattened, green pods, perfect for using fresh when young, but even better as a dried bean once mature. Garden Organic's Sally Cunningham says that they are meaty and succulent, ideal for bean burgers or chilli. Seed colour maroon.



Navy Bean Edmund (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Navy beans were first cultivated to sustain Australian forces during WWII and are the type used

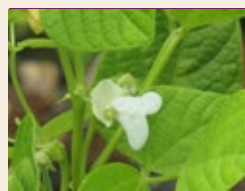
as baked beans. This variety came to us from RHS Harlow Carr and produces compact (around 20cm), branching plants with white flowers followed by short green pods filled with small round beans. The pods are held free of the ground, reducing slug and rotting problems. Principally a drying bean but can be eaten as a green bean too. Seed colour white.



Starley Red Peas (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Traditionally used to make Jamaican rice-and-peas or dirty rice, the beans can be dried and used for cooking all winter but taste good fresh too. This selection was collected by the late

Phil Bannister from Starley Road Co-op Community Garden in Coventry. It has creamy-pink flowers and long pods packed with beans. Seed colour maroon.



Vermont Cranberry (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This heirloom from New England, USA, dates back to before 1876. It produces compact, hardy plants,

which show good pest and disease resistance, though some staking may be required to prevent lodging, an abundance of attractive white flowers is followed by small pods filled with beans that are cranberry-like in both shape and colour. Can be eaten as pods, shelled beans or dried; at all stages they have a unique sweet flavour. Sow to harvest 60-85 days (approx.) Seed colour maroon with cream speckles.



Xenia Field ORGANIC (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This bean is, without a doubt, a tribute to journalist, professional gardener and politician Xenia Field - who died, aged 103, in 1998. Once available from Unwins, it was considered high yielding

and disease resistant, and performed well in British conditions. Bushy plants produce white flowers and straight, green pods that are best picked when young and stringless. Also freezes well. Seed colour pale cream to buff with light grey speckles.

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Kale



Kale mix 
(50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Not a single variety but a mixture of all three of the varieties of kale we have on offer this year. Each one

is, of course, fantastic on its own, but having all three to choose from is even better. After all, variety is the spice of life!



Ragged Jack
(50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

(*Brassica oleracea*) Our donor's family had grown this kale for many years. Known as 'Tunley Greens',

it had originally come 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.



Tall Green Curled
(50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

(*Brassica oleracea*) Seed merchant JL Clucas Ltd describe this variety in their 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)

(*Brassica oleracea*) Thought to have been available since the mid-nineteenth century, this variety is both hardy and productive. The plants grow

to around a metre in height, producing leaves and flowering tips with a flavour like that of spring greens.

Lablab



Vasu's 30 Day Dwarf Papri 
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Acquired via our Sowing New Seeds project, this lablab is named after its donor and is said to take 30 days from seed to flower.

Grown and saved on the Redhill Allotments, Leicester, but originally commercial seed from India. This variety performs best in fertile soils and a temperate climate.



Yings Lablab 
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

THIS VARIETY NEEDS A CHAMPION.

A Chinese lablab with lovely scented mauve flowers and

pretty pods, which are lime green, often with a reddish-purple edge. Flowering should start by July from an April sowing. This is the type called liva in Gujarati which produces broad flat pods and mild-flavoured beans.

Lettuce



Avon Defiance
(50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor sent us original Sutton's seed of this butterhead variety when they found it was no longer

available commercially. Sutton's Catalogue (1977) states: "A mildew resistant type bred by the National Vegetable Research Station. Specially recommended for June to early August sowing."



Bloody Warrior
(50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

An ex-commercial, cos-type lettuce that has crisp, green leaves splashed with red. Our donor suggests planting out in

autumn and overwintering with protection; the lettuces will heart up for early summer harvesting. Lovely, slightly bitter flavour, perfect in a mixed leaf salad.



Emerald
(50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Donated in the late 1980s by one of the Sisters of the Carmelite Monastery in Hertfordshire. This is a

very pretty, compact, pale green lettuce with a loose head and tender leaves with a delicate buttery taste, particularly when young.



Feuille De Chene
(50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

With a name that translates as 'oak leaf', this variety is both vigorous, productive and very easy to grow. The

loose heads of 'nutty flavoured' leaves are great for cut-and-come-again, and for harvesting whole when mature. Reputed to be slow to bolt and unattractive to slugs - it's a real winner for the organic grower.



Mescher
(50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Austrian heirloom dating back to the 1700s. A compact cos lettuce, its unusual, crinkled leaves

have a pretty red tinge to the margin, brightening up any salad bowl. These tightly packed leaves blanch the heart, giving it a very sweet flavour. Easy to grow, delicious to eat and known to be cold hardy. 77 days sow to harvest (approx.)



Northern Queen
(50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

THIS VARIETY NEEDS A CHAMPION.

Our donor found these seeds among her father's

gardening paraphernalia. 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.



White Seeded Samara
(50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

An attractive, bright apple-green, loose-leaf lettuce that produces white seeds, hence

the name. The large, soft leaves have excellent flavour, and it works very well as a 'cut-and-come-again' variety. Does well under glass but is also cold hardy.

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.

Mustard (Indian)



Gupta's Indian Mustard ORGANIC

(50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

THIS VARIETY HAS A CHAMPION.

Although originally from India, this has been grown for many years by our donor on the St Mary's Allotments in Leamington Spa – a multicultural hotch-potch of vegetable growing. It's the most productive of the Indian mustards trialed in our 2013 Sowing New Seeds project, producing large, mild-flavoured leaves.

Onion



Australian Brown ORGANIC

(50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originally known as Brown Spanish but brought from Australia in 1894

and renamed Australian Brown by the famous seed merchant Washington Atlee Burpee. A medium sized, early maturing, flattened globe variety with a thick, chestnut brown skin and strong-flavoured yellowish flesh. A good keeper.



Portuguesa Amarilla Tardia ORGANIC

(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.



Strigonovsky ORGANIC

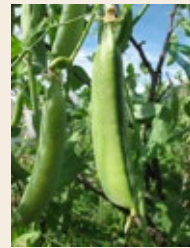
(40 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This Russian variety produces brown, globe-shaped onion with yellow flesh. The bulbs are 120-

240g in size with good flavour, not excessively hot.

Pea

Up to 1m



British Wonder

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Donated to HSL by Seed Guardian Bob Catchpole, this hardy, compact pea (60cm-1m) is exceptionally high yielding. Introduced in the UK by Taber and Cullen in 1890 and in the USA by

W Atlee Burpee in 1904, who listed it in their Annual in 1916. It produces white flowers followed by plump green pods filled with flavoursome and sweet peas.



Carters Dwarf Sugar

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Thought to date back to around 1800, the listing in the Carters Blue Book

of 1956 for this pea states it is "an excellent edible podded pea, similar to the variety used on the Continent". Growing to 60-90cm in height, it has a relatively dwarf habit. Sow to harvest 75 days (approx.)

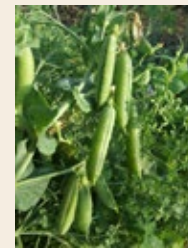


Harrison Glory

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Thought to have been developed by Harrisons Seed Merchants, Leicester, sometime before 1855,

when it was first offered by Sutton & Sons. By the 1860s it was available as far afield as New Zealand and the USA. Also listed in EW King & Co Catalogue of 1898. This early/second early pea produces white flowers with green veins followed by green pods with four to five tasty peas in each.



Parsley

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

An unusual variety which, alongside its white flowers, produces edible tendrils that resemble curled parsley and are a perfect addition to salads. The plants grow up to a metre in height

but will need tying to pea sticks as these tendrils will not cling to supports like other peas. The plump pods contain 6-7 sweet, flavoured peas which are delicious cooked and even better straight from the pod.



Yorkshire Hero

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

THIS VARIETY NEEDS A CHAMPION.

This variety originated around 1862. The DM Ferry

catalogue (USA) of 1881 states: "A fine, white, wrinkled pea, very prolific, quite early and of delicious flavour; grows to about 2½ feet high and keeps a long time in season. In fact, it never becomes hard. The seed, when ripe, is of a creamy-white colour, much shrivelled and indented, and in its green state is unsurpassed in sweetness and delicate flavour." Let us know what you think.

1.1 to 1.8m



Bullroyd Bean Pea

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor was given seeds of this variety by his neighbour, who in turn had acquired them from a

past member of the Bullroyd Allotment Association, Bradford, where the pea had been successfully grown for many years. Dense plants reach 1.5-1.8m in height, producing pink and purple flowers and pods full of large, tasty peas. Guardian Michael enjoyed their "old-fashioned" flavour and found them particularly tasty in a pea and cauliflower curry.



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.)



Early Capucyner

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Although it's usually thought that 'capucijner' peas were bred by Capucan monks in the Netherlands during the Middle Ages, most were actually developed by Dutch seedsmen at a much later time.

Reaching up to 1.8m, this variety produces beautiful bicoloured pink and rich magenta flowers followed by straight, plump pods each containing four to six peas.



Frueher Heinrich

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Syn. 'Early Henry'. Cultivated successfully by our donor in Northern Germany before it disappeared from

commercial catalogues. She saved her own seeds and continued to grow it when she moved to Devon. A hardy, tall (up to 1.5m) variety that produces white flowers and tender pods, which can be eaten as mangetout but also tasty if podded over a very long season.



Gladstone

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Syn. Maincrop Marrowfat. This late, maincrop variety was bred and introduced by WG Holmes in 1895.

The vigorous plants grow to 1.2-1.5m in height and are reliable, hardy and show real drought resistance, no signs of mildew either. White flowers are followed by long pods packed with very sweet, tender peas (eight to 11 per pod).



Herbie's Purple Podded Bean Pea

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor's father acquired these peas from their namesake Herbie. Herbie had grown the variety since the late 1990s in Northumberland after being given them by a lady

whose garden he tended. She told him that they had been passed from generation-to-generation for many years in the Bedlington/Choppington area. The tall vines (up to 1.8m) grow rapidly after germination, producing bicolour pink flowers followed by purple pods and pale green peas with a flavour very similar to a processed pea. They also freeze well.



Jeyes

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Thought to have originated in Gayton, Northamptonshire, and developed from Knights

Tall Green Marrow. According to *Peas of New York* (1928) some seeds made their way to Northampton-based seed merchant Messrs Jeyes, who marketed the variety as 'Jeyes Conqueror'. The Gardeners' Chronicle and Agricultural Gazette for 1859 published a selection of glowing testimonials, and a long list of growers willing to support these. A tall pea (>1.5m) producing white flowers and a heavy crop of large, sweet, solid peas tightly packed in their pods. Delicious fresh, but will also freeze very well, maintaining their flavour.



Lincolnshire ORGANIC

Dating back to before 1972 this variety was donated by Rita Inchley, and produces sturdy, compact plants (1.2m). The white flowers are followed by plump pods packed full of juicy wrinkled peas containing up to nine tasty peas in each. Despite their size they are robust and produce a substantial crop.



Mummy's Pea

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This variety has been grown in Durweston, near Blandford, Dorset, for as long as local memory

goes. They are known there as 'Mummy's' and it was suggested the seeds were originally found in a tomb. To add to the story, there is thought to be a link between a local landowning family (the Portmans) and the 1922 expedition that unveiled Tutankhamun's tomb. A tall (>1.5m), white flowered variety, producing well-filled pods of sweet peas.



Roi de Caroubi 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 inside. Crisp and delicious when raw, but equally so lightly steamed or in stir-fries. Seed Guardian Adam describes it as having "stand-out culinary qualities", we hope that you agree.



Rosa Krone ORGANIC

Translating as 'Rose Crown', this very unusual Swedish heirloom was passed to us on behalf of the Corwen

Community Garden, Denbighshire. It produces robust plants 1.2-1.5m in height and beautiful rose-pink and ivory flowers, the majority of which are borne at the top of the plants. The pods are perfect as mangetout, but can also be allowed to develop and fill, when the peas are deliciously sweet.



Sankia ORGANIC

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Thought to have originated in San Kia, Chinese Turkestan, now known as Xinjiang, a province in the

north-west of China. This variety was acquired by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 1910 to be trialled as a potential forage crop. It was also used, more recently, in research for seed-borne pea mosaic virus in the Netherlands. Produces tall (up to 1.8m) plants and white flowers followed by short, slightly curved pods.



Stokesley

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This variety is named after the area in which they have been grown for many years, Stokesley, North Yorkshire.

Growing to around 1.7m in height this strong, early, productive pea produces white flowers and distinctive curved pods packed full of large, sweet peas. Seed Guardian Eluned says "these peas are gorgeous young, but also when more mature". Sow to harvest 88 days (approx.)



Turner's Spring

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Named after our donor, this pea has been grown in Sidmouth, Devon for decades. Reaching more

than 2m in height the vigorous vines produce white flowers, pale foliage and long pods (up to 15cm) each containing 9-12 large peas. All the Guardians who have grown this variety comment on the sweetness of the peas. Guardian Eluned adds that "this is a handsome pea, which tastes delicious raw and is not affected by pests (except humans)"!



Veitch's Western Express

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originating from the famous Veitch Nursery, located in Exeter through the 18th,

19th and 20th centuries until being sold to St Bridget's Nurseries in 1969. This variety was specifically bred with local conditions in mind. Growers in Exeter maintained this pea for many years before it was passed to us. The hardy, tall plants (1.5-1.8m) produce white flowers and plump pods with up to 10 delicious peas in each.

More than 1.8m



Avi Juan

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Donated by Seed Guardian Adam Alexander, who was given seeds of this pea by a Catalan friend, Jesus

Vargas. The variety was bred in the 1960s by Jesus's grandfather and named after his grandmother; their family were the only people growing this variety until it was shared with Adam. It produces tall vines (>2m) with large, white flowers, mostly borne in pairs and very attractive to bees. The pods are large and full, containing around 10 sweet, tasty peas in each.



Duke of Albany

(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This ex-commercial, maincrop variety has been grown and saved by our donor since 1971. Described

by Vilmorin-Andrieux (1885), it is tall (>2.1m), thick-stemmed and vigorous, requiring sturdy supports. White flowers are followed by long, dark green pods. Carters Tested Seeds catalogue of 1888 states it is "a very handsome new wrinkled pea, with a profusion of extra large, well-filled pods containing nine to 12 peas".



Eat All (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A tall mangetout variety that produces the prettiest pink and maroon bi-coloured 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.



Large Grey ORGANIC (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Pods of this Latvian variety are traditionally allowed to dry on the plant, then harvested for use as dried peas. This variety produces beautiful flowers, pale mauve with purple veining and pinkish-purple wings, followed by short, chunky pods packed with large, marrowfat peas.



Latvian Large Grey Christmas Pea (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

The term grey peas is given to older forms of pea and refers to those that can be eaten fresh without cooking, or dried. Originating in Latvia and thought to be at least 100 years old, this is a vigorous, tall and productive pea. It has thick stems, large fleshy leaves and bicoloured purple flowers followed by pods containing large, well flavoured peas. Great fresh but also good for drying and using as mushy peas or pease pudding.



Magnum Bonum (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor passed seed to HSL during the 1980s as his friend's family had grown the variety in Devon for many years. Dating back to at least 1845 this strong, reliable and vigorous maincrop variety grows to more than 2m in height and produces an abundance of thick pods well-filled with large, juicy, sweet and flavoursome peas that can be picked over several weeks.



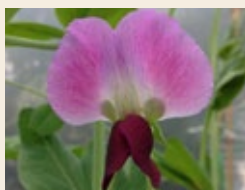
Old England (Kelway) (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This variety is thought to have been bred by Kelways, a nursery and seed merchant established in 1851 by James Kelway of Langport, Somerset. Introduced in the early 20th century this pea produces tall plants (1.2-1.5m) with white flowers and broad, plump pods containing 5-7 large, wrinkle-seeded peas.



Prince of Prussia (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Known to have been grown by the Lucas family in Leicestershire since 1865. This variety has done well from an early sowing and produces very large plants, >3m in height, so will need decent supports. Pretty white flowers are followed by big, juicy pods containing delicious, sweet peas (6-8 per pod).



Stephens (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Originating in Yorkshire, this variety looks like a pea but has quite a beany flavour. Tall (>2m) and vigorous, it produces bicoloured purple and maroon flowers followed by a substantial crop of purple pods. One of our HSL members grows this variety in Cockermouth, Cumbria, and has found that they crop from June until well into September. Perfect for making mushy peas once mature.



Suttons Early Giant (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

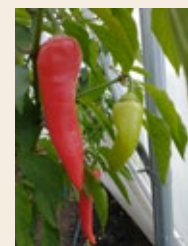
Probably a strain of the well-known commercial variety Gradus, this white-flowered pea dates back to the turn of the 20th century. Suttons 1940 catalogue description says: "Still holds its position as one of the most popular wrinkle-seeded peas in the early section. Pods large, pointed, dark green in colour, and produced in great profusion. Flavour excellent. Height 3-4ft (90-120cm)." Most of our Guardians found they grew much taller (>2m), and that the peas they produced were particularly delicious!

Pepper



Long Green Buddha ORGANIC (15 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Bushy, compact plants (up to 1m) produce white flowers followed by long (9-12cm), conical fruits some with small, curled spurs at the stem end. The name may be something of a misnomer as these fruits are at their best when they are left to ripen to a bright and shiny red. Not for lovers of really hot chillis, but rich flavoured with a spicy kick, and productive and easy to grow. Sow to harvest 70 days (approx).



Sweet Banana ORGANIC (15 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A slender, mild, sweet pepper that originates from Hungary. It produces heavy yields of pretty, pointed peppers which are ready to eat when they are lime-green, but turn a bright waxy red if left on the plant. Excellent pickling peppers and also tasty in salads and sandwiches. Seed Guardian Sandra Slack says they are "beautiful, glowing fruits, and a handy size for stuffing and baking whole".



Trifetti ORGANIC (15 SEEDS PER PACKET) THIS VARIETY NEEDS A CHAMPION.

Syn. Purple Tiger. Produces pretty plants with variegated cream and green leaves, purple flowers and dark purple/black, bullet-shaped fruits that turn red when ripe. We recommend early sowing (February/early March) and a long growing season for this pepper. The peppers are extremely hot, 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



Tientsin Green ORGANIC (60 SEEDS PER PACKET) THIS VARIETY NEEDS A CHAMPION.

Our donor originally obtained seeds of this variety from a collection in China. It produces white roots with a green collar and a really 'radishy' bite! Could be tried as a winter radish.

Runner Bean



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

This bean has been handed down through 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."



Daniels Defiance (10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

One of our HSL members describes this variety perfectly: "It has the best flavour of any runner bean known to me, superior to modern varieties - but it would be useless on the show bench. Seldom reaching 12in in length and is rarely perfectly straight. A cook's delight but a showing gardener's disaster." Growing to more than 2.5m in height, the vigorous plants produce a heavy crop of 20-25cm long pods that are tender, succulent and stringless if picked before the seeds inside cause bumps.



David Chappell
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Named after our donor, this variety was bred from ‘Prizewinner’ and ‘Achievement’ by Dr W Florida in Pwllmeyrick, near Chepstow, in 1936. Some were eventually passed to our donor David in 1946 and he has grown them ever since. It produces several flowers and pods per leaf node and is an exceptionally heavy cropper with up to nine beans in each long pod. Until it was donated to HSL ‘David Chappell’ was only grown by the Chappell family. Requires strong supports.



Inchley’s White
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A late, white flowered runner bean that produces very tall plants and a huge crop of long, irregular-shaped pods generously filled with pale beans. Does well even in hot, dry conditions. Easy to care for, this variety is particularly productive, and the pods are tender and delicious when picked young.



Lubenham
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor began developing this variety from ‘Unwins Enorma’ back in 1971, and it has been grown in the village of Lubenham, Leicestershire, by several other residents, since the 1980s. He recommends the beans are sown direct on 14 May and harvested regularly, picking the long, green pods whilst they are sweet and tender.



Morlin-Webber Century
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Named after our donor’s family, this variety was developed by his great uncle, Charles Morlin in around 1910 and passed down through the generations. During the 1990s Mr Webber’s dad passed the responsibility on to him and he has been growing them ever since. It’s a scarlet flowered variety, both a prolific and reliable cropper, producing pods up to 35cm in length. Frank direct sows from around 1 May and harvests from August through until the end of October.



Rhondda Black
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Donated by Seed Guardian Adam Alexander, who was given this variety in 2007 by a keen attendee at one of his talks. He was told that they had been grown in gardens in the Rhondda Valley for generations. After years of searching for the origins of this variety, Adam eventually traced it to a breeder who, it appears, developed it from a black-seeded sport of Enorma in 1967. In the 1980s he began crossing these new beans with Liberty, and later the HSL variety Jescott’s/ Jessop’s Longun. The result was these beans!



Stenner
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

The National Vegetable Society note this is an exhibition variety, perfect for the show bench. Our Cardiff-based donor, who bred this variety and after whom it’s named, had much success with his bean during the 1970s and 80s, unbeaten both locally and nationally between 1976 to 1986. Produces very vigorous plants and a generous crop of very long, straight pods, which remain stringless and tender. Excellent flavour and freeze well.



Wrobel’s Own
(10 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Named after Mr Wrobel, who grew this bean for more than 20 years and distributed the seed among friends and family, eventually reaching our donor. A prolific variety with unusual white flowers and white seeds. Tender and stringless when young, the bean has an excellent flavour. Mr Wrobel preferred to preserve his beans by salting, but they freeze well too.

Shark Fin Melon



Hong’s
(5 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Widely used in southern Central America and Asia, this vegetable is so named because it’s traditionally made into a broth that resembles shark fin soup. This variety spreads vigorously, particularly in nitrogen-rich soils, so it will need plenty of space to scramble. Each plant will produces four to five pale green fruits which have mild-flavoured, cucumber-like flesh.

Sorrel



Noon’s Close
(50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

THIS VARIETY HAS A CHAMPION.

This variety was given to our donor by the owner of the house once resided in by the late Professor Tutin, University of Leicester Botanist and joint editor of the five-volume publication *Flora Europea* (1964). The house is in Noon’s Close, Stoughton, Leicestershire, hence the variety name. It’s a typical broad-leaved sorrel: tasty and lemony, 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.



Shchavel
(50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A hardy, early, prolific and disease-free Russian variety (‘Shchavel’ means sorrel in Russian). The succulent and lemony-sharp leaves really lift a mixed salad, but it can also be used in sauces, soups, quiches and stir fries. A truly multipurpose vegetable.

Spinach



Blight Resistant Virginia
(50 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This variety from Virginia, USA, is thought to have been derived from Bloomsdale Longstanding. Appears to have added resistance for spinach blight virus and yellow dwarf virus. It’s suggested the seed is sown in autumn, as it tends to run to seed in hot weather.

Squash



Georgia Candy Roaster
(6 SEEDS PER PACKET)

(*C. maxima*) Thought to have originated in the Appalachian Mountains, this productive banana-type squash is perfect for roasting and pie making. Produces rampant vines and large, long fruits weighing anything up to 25kg. Expect a little variation in shape, and in the thin, pinkish orange skin; the key feature is the delicious, smooth, orange flesh.



Greek
(6 SEEDS PER PACKET)

(*C. pepo*) A bushy, productive variety which just keeps on going! The fruits are cream with pale green, mild flavoured flesh and can be eaten young or allowed to grow on to hefty marrow-like proportions.



Sucrette (6 SEEDS PER PACKET)

(*C. pepo*) A vigorous grower so give it lots of space. Weighing around 1kg each, the yellow fruits have slightly warty skin and sweet, golden flesh. HSL's Rachel Crow says it's "delicious chopped into

chunks and roasted in a hot oven with a tablespoon or two of olive oil. Drizzle with honey towards the end of cooking and return to the oven to crisp".



White Serpent ^{ORGANIC} (6 SEEDS PER PACKET)

(*C. pepo*) This vigorous, bushy variety is a prolific producer of long, pale green squashes which 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.



Zapallito de Tronco (6 SEEDS PER PACKET)

THIS VARIETY NEEDS A CHAMPION.

(*C. maxima*) This South American bush-type squash was first listed by James J H Gregory in 1885 and has been intermittently available since

that time. In one season a single plant can produce 15kg of tennis-ball sized fruits for summer or winter use. Seedsman George B Roberts reintroduced it to his catalogue in 1967 suggesting that "they are delicious cooked and eaten cold, filled with summer vegetables mixed with mayonnaise, or with delicacies in the same manner as an avocado pear".

Tomato

Yellow



Baby Gazzi ^{ORGANIC} (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Donated by Italian tomato breeder Suzanne Arregger Perini, this variety produces

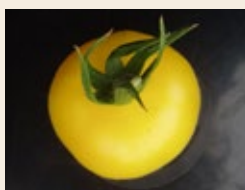
yellow, golf-ball-sized tomatoes with an attractive orange blush to the base. Best glasshouse grown, or in the sunniest garden, as it likes the heat. The fruits ripen quickly and have a sweet, mild flavour.



Dixie Golden Giant ^{ORGANIC} (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Produces large, slightly flattened, deep yellow-

orange, beefsteak fruits. A great slicer, perfect for sandwiches and salads. This variety produces flowers with stigma that protrude from the anther cone, so if seed saving it will require isolating from other varieties of this type.



Wapsipinicon Peach ^{ORGANIC} (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Donated to the HSL National Collection by John Yeoman,

who comments that "this is one of the best tomatoes I have ever tasted". An American heirloom, named after the Wapsipinicon River, Iowa, the small/medium fruit (5cm) are creamish-yellow with a slightly fuzzy surface, hence the name 'peach'. It also has a rather complex flavour: sweet and fruity, with great texture. Caution: this variety has been known to exact an allergic skin reaction in sensitive individuals, possibly because of the downy hairs on the surface of the fruit.



Yellow Drop ^{ORGANIC} (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 their "best tasting yellow mini tomato: sweet and mild". Let us know what you think.

Semi-determinate Red



Belhomme's Fortuna Potato Leaf ^{ORGANIC} (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

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. Tasty fresh, but also great when used in tomato-based sauces.



Joe Atkinson ^{ORGANIC} (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

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 which are juicy and have excellent flavour. HSL member Jane Hickman says they're "great fresh, but also good for cooking". This variety produces flowers with stigma that protrude from the anther cone, so if seed saving it will require isolating from other varieties of this type.



Lumpy Red ^{ORGANIC} (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Thought to have originated in Clay County, Kentucky, around 1900 and has been grown there ever since. It

produces medium-large, red, ribbed, beefsteak fruits with 'lumpy shoulders', hence the name, and a flavour that has a good balance between sweet and acid. This variety produces flowers with stigma that protrude from the anther cone, so if seed saving it will require isolating from other varieties of this type.



Pink Cherry ^{ORGANIC} (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

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.

Indeterminate Red



Brooks' Special ^{ORGANIC} (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Cordon. Donated by Mr Brooks, whose father and grandfather also grew it, and believed to be 170-180

years old. The variably sized red fruits are sweet, juicy and good when eaten raw or cooked. Easy to grow and productive. Seed Guardian Mary says they are "thin skinned with a sweet taste. Lovely eaten straight from the plant". One Ryton staff member described it as "how a tomato should taste" - but we will leave that to you to decide.



Christel's Plum ORGANIC (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

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



Large Red ORGANIC (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Cordon. A very old American heirloom variety pre-dating the American Civil War. Fearing Burr (1865) states that 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. This variety produces flowers with stigma that protrude from the anther cone, so if seed saving it will require isolating from other varieties of this type.



Little Tatyana ORGANIC (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

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 uses them for both salads and cooking.



Ararat Flamed ORGANIC (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Cordon. Originally from Debrecen in Hungary, this variety is known as Ararat Geflammt, 'geflammt' meaning 'flamed' in German. When unripe the fruits are clearly flamed with dark green around their tops. This becomes less visible once they have ripened to a deep red. A heavy cropper with good sized, tasty fruits.



Queen of Hearts ORGANIC (20 SEEDS PER PACKET) THIS VARIETY NEEDS A CHAMPION.

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 was 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.



Red Star ORGANIC (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Cordon. The variety was donated by John Yeoman of The Village Guild. It's small in size (2-4cm), but has a beefsteak shape, and when cut in half has an unusual almost star shape. Flavoursome and very attractive in salads. This variety produces flowers with stigma that protrude from the anther cone, so if seed saving it will require isolating from other varieties of this type.



Stonors No. 2 ORGANIC (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

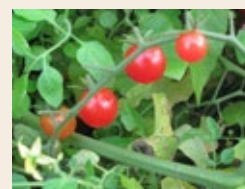
Cordon. Our donor originally saved these seeds from some tomatoes he bought from a local gardener, who had grown the variety for more than 25 years and said that the variety was Stonors No. 2. Produces medium-sized, red tomatoes with great flavour, which are produced over a long period of time.

Determinate Bush Red



Burbank Bush ORGANIC (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

This heirloom tomato 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 FLAVOUR" (underlined twice)!



Currant ORGANIC (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

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 ORGANIC (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

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 ORGANIC (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

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. Has also 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



Clear Pink Early ORGANIC (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Semi-determinate. This Russian heirloom is early and compact, producing plants 60-90cm tall. Not quite a bush variety, more of an unbranching, short cordon. Produces long trusses of attractive slightly ribbed, round, pinkish-red fruit, which are sweet but tangy. Let us know what you think.



Dwarf Wax ORGANIC (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Determinate. Bush. Originally bred by Tom Wagner, this late variety produces curious hairy, stout bushes followed by green striped fruits which ripen to yellow, retaining their stripes. The fruits have distinctly waxy skin, "squeaky" to the touch. Good eating, they are sweet and tangy and keep well despite their thin skin. They also grow well in pots. This variety produces flowers with stigma that protrude from the anther cone, so if seed saving it will require isolating from other varieties of this type.



Green Sausage ORGANIC (20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Semi-determinate (will need some staking). This variety was donated to HSL by John Yeoman, formerly of The Village Guild. It produces leafy plants and interesting elongated, plum-shaped, yellow and green striped fruit, up to 10cm in length, with a sweet yet tangy flavour.



Lilac Giant ORGANIC
(20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Donated by John Yeoman of The Village Guild. Not truly lilac, it produces large (up to 750g), slightly flattened, beefsteak-type tomatoes with sweet, pink flesh, great in sandwiches or salads.



Noir ORGANIC
(20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. Donated by John Yeoman, formerly of The Village Guild, and thought to have originated in the Black Sea region of the Crimea, Ukraine. This variety produces large, sweet flavoured, dark red fruit with green shoulders. John describes them as “a rare and decorative novelty”; let us know what you think.



Ol' German Pink ORGANIC
(20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Indeterminate. Cordon. German heirloom variety that produces very large (up to 500g) fruits, which are pink with faint green striping and contain very few seeds. This potato leaved variety has flowers with protruding stigma and will cross-pollinate with other varieties that share this characteristic so if seed saving will require isolation. We have little information on this variety so let us know what you think of it.



Pink Gaetano ORGANIC
(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. This variety produces flowers with stigma that protrude from the anther cone, so if seed saving it will require isolating from other varieties of this type.



Tiger Tom ORGANIC
(20 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Determinate. Bush. Our donor acquired this variety in 1979 after obtaining seeds from a small producer in Devon. It had also been previously supplied commercially by Suttons. Seed Guardian Eluned 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.

Turnip



Black Sugarsweet ORGANIC
(100 SEEDS PER PACKET)

Our donor purchased seeds of this variety from a stall in Las Ramblas, possibly the most famous street in the heart of Barcelona. It has a very long, black-skinned, sweet root that keeps well, even in winter. The white flesh is firm with a sugary flavour and has been popular with HSL members when previously featured in the Seed List.

Watercress



Hong's ORGANIC
(100 SEEDS PER PACKET)

A sprawling plant that likes damp conditions and produces lots of small, peppery leaves a perfect, tasty addition to salads. Sow in modules in March-April and plant out after May at a spacing of 30cm. This variety came to us via the Uplands Allotments, Handsworth, Birmingham. It may start to flower early, but collect the seeds, cut back and wait for that second vigorous flush of leaves.

Calling all veg growers!

Are you growing a local variety you think we should know about?



We have launched an exciting new project made possible thanks to National Lottery players and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to find and share local and heirloom crops growing in vegetable plots across the Midlands.

We want to learn more about edible plants that are thriving locally, as well as hear and share the stories of the people behind them.

To find out more and to help us please scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/HSLseedsearch> thank you!



Your request - what you need to know

1. THE DEADLINE FOR THE RECEIPT OF SEED REQUESTS IS TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2026. 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/seedlist

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 Tuesday 31 March 2026 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 fund-raising 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.

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.

To place your request online or for growing instructions visit www.gardenorganic.org.uk/seedlist 33

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With grateful thanks

This year the Heritage Seed Library is celebrating its 50th anniversary, a very special year for us indeed. We have seen many changes, not least in the weather conditions we experience year on year. In 2024 we battled the rain and the deluge of slugs and snails who loved it; in 2025 the complete opposite with long periods of hot, dry weather.

The changing climate is, of course, what makes open-pollinated varieties so important as they have the potential to adapt to these changes so readily. Our volunteer Seed Guardians have adapted too, to ensure that we receive enough seeds each year to enable the conservation of the 800+ varieties we hold, and to ensure that seeds are available for our members to grow and enjoy every year.

This year, the seed of almost half of the varieties we are offering has been grown by our volunteer Seed Guardians, more than 13,500 packets worth! Most of the peas and French beans have been carefully cultivated in gardens and allotments across the whole of Great Britain, and some of the beetroot, carrots, broad beans, lettuces, runner beans, sorrel and squash too.

Of course, once the seeds are grown, harvested, cleaned and returned to us they also must be packeted before we can share them with you all. This is where our Ryton volunteers' step in; this year they have scooped, counted and sealed almost 34,000 packets of seed to ensure that you have the opportunity to enjoy some of the wonderful varieties in our collection.

There have been many changes in the Heritage Seed Library in the past 50 years, our Collection has significantly increased in size, our procedures have been honed, and our membership has grown. However, one thing that hasn't changed is the dedication of the volunteers who enable us to continue our work so successfully now and will continue to do so into the next 50 years.

**garden.
organic**

www.gardenorganic.org.uk

membership@gardenorganic.org.uk | Tel: 024 7630 8210



@gardenorganicuk

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