

General Donor Form Instructions

- To save time when completing the form manually, fill in your name on a blank form, then make as many copies as you need for the seeds you intend to donate.
- We will place the electronic version of the form on the web site by August. You can then download the PDF file onto your computer, fill it out, and send it electronically.
- If you donated exactly the same seed to a previous HPS/MAG Seed Exchange, you need to complete only the Donor and Plant Name section unless you wish to add or change any information.
- The basic plant information portion that appeared in past years' forms ("Plant Description" section of the Donor Form; i.e. plant type, size, light requirement, bloom time, etc.) has been removed from the form and the information will be provided by the Seed Exchange Committee. If you are submitting something unusual, new to cultivation, or obscure and not usually found in major reference books, please provide any additional information that you know about the plant.
- Limit Donor Comments to 20 words or less. Seed Exchange participants appreciate information on drought tolerance, soil preference, companion plantings, fragrance, foliage, etc.

Collecting Guidelines

- Collect seed as it ripens throughout the growing season.
- Label seeds as you collect them. Many seeds look very similar, especially if you collect different colors of the same species. Please don't rely on your memory alone! Jot down those names as you collect.
- For information on preparing seed, contact Lorraine Wallace, 610-527-6798 or lorrainejwallace@gmail.com.
- Some seed should be cleaned and dried. Put the dry seed in separate, leak-free paper envelopes or plastic, as appropriate. Tape or fold seams and corners to prevent leakage. Do not use plastic for dried seed, as it tends to encourage the contents to rot.
- Certain seed loses viability easily and should be stored in the refrigerator after it is cleaned and dried. Hellebores, other members of the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae), and seed of most woody plants are among this group. Store the cleaned seed in labeled envelopes in the refrigerator in tightly sealed glass jars or plastic bags, along with a silica gel packet (sold in craft stores and often found in vitamin bottles or shoe boxes) to prevent excess moisture from forming. Instant dry powdered milk also works as a desiccant. Please clearly mark this seed 'Refrigerate' so we will also know to store it refrigerated until it is distributed.
- Label each envelope with the plant name and your name.

Insect Damage Prevention

Check each batch of seeds for insect infestation, which can destroy your seed, as well as other members' donations. Members of the mallow or hollyhock family, Malvaceae, including *Abelmoschus*, *Abutilon*, *Alcea*, *Malva*, and *Sidalcea*, are especially prone to weevil infestation. To rid seed of insects, add a mothball or two to the seed packet.

Sending Seeds

Mail seed and forms to the Seed Exchange by October 31. If your seed is not ripe by October 31, send the completed form with a note indicating when you expect the seed to be ready. Then send the seed as soon as it is ripened and cleaned, but no later than January 8. To be listed in the Seed Exchange Catalog, forms must be received by October 31.

Troubleshooting

If you are not sure how to distinguish seed from chaff or how to clean it, send a small sample (named, of course) and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Seed Exchange (c/o Lorraine Wallace, 1129 Norsam Rd., Gladwyne, PA 19035). We will return it with tips on the easiest way to clean it. Be sure to do this early enough to allow feedback well before the January 8 deadline.

Bonus Seeds

Seed Exchange volunteers and donors of at least five different varieties of seeds are entitled to receive a bonus of 10 extra packets of seed. In addition, their orders are processed first. Contact Polly Garnett at mkgpollywog@aol.com or 610-695-9135 for more information on volunteering.

Invasive Plants Note

The Seed Exchange does not accept or distribute seed from plants deemed to be invasive. Sources for determination include the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Council and The Nature Conservancy. If in doubt about a particular species you would like to donate, contact the Seed Exchange.