

General Donor Form Instructions

- The online donation form is available now.
- We prefer that you enter the donation information online. However, you may complete the forms manually if you wish. To save time, fill in your name on a blank form, then make one copy for each seed variety that you intend to donate.
- If you donated exactly the same variety of seed to the HPS/MAG Seed Exchange from a previous year, you can check off that donation on your Donation History report, emailed or postal mailed to you. If you did not receive a Donation History report, please contact Carole Maher, seedexchange@hardyplant.org, 215-884-1662, for a copy.
- If you are submitting something unusual, new to cultivation, or obscure and not usually found in major reference books, please provide any additional information (i.e. plant type, size, light requirement, bloom time, hardiness zone, etc.) that you know about the plant.
- Limit Donor Comments to twenty words or less. Seed Exchange participants appreciate information on drought tolerance, soil preference, companion plantings, fragrance, foliage, etc.
- Mail completed paper Seed Donation Forms to:
Seed Donation Forms Processing
Jim Bobb
P.O. Box 269
Worcester, PA 19490

Donation Form Deadlines

Seed Donation Forms are due no later than October 31. Forms must be received by **October 31** to be listed in the Seed Exchange Catalog.

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 Carole Maher, seedexchange@hardyplant.org, 215-884-1662.
- Some seed should be cleaned and thoroughly dried. Put the dry seed in separate, leak-free paper envelopes. Tape or fold seams and corners to prevent leakage of tiny seeds. Certain seed loses viability easily and should be stored in the refrigerator after it is cleaned and dried. Hellebores and other members of the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae) are among this group. There are others. Store the dry, cleaned seed labeled, in the refrigerator, in tightly sealed envelopes, along with a silica gel packet, instant dry powdered milk, dry peat, or any other desiccant. Please clearly mark this seed "Refrigerate" so we will know to store it refrigerated until it is distributed.

Collecting Guidelines (Continued)

- Seed of most woody plants also loses viability easily and should be stored in the refrigerator after cleaning. Some types should be stored dry and some types should be stored in slightly moist peat. Store the labeled, cleaned, dry seed in the refrigerator in envelopes or tightly sealed jars. Store moist seed in tightly sealed plastic bags. Please clearly mark woody seeds "Refrigerate" so we will also know to store them refrigerated until they are 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

Cleaned, ripened seeds must be received by **January 9**. Send seed to:

Seed Exchange
c/o Loretta DeMarco
603 Walnut Ln
Philadelphia, PA 19128

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 Loretta DeMarco at the above address. 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 9 deadline.

Bonus Seeds

Seed Exchange volunteers and donors of at least five different varieties of seeds are entitled to receive a bonus of ten extra packets of seed. In addition, their orders are processed first.

To Volunteer

Contact Polly Garnett, mkgpollywog@aol.com, 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, www.invasiveplantatlas.org, and The Nature Conservancy. If in doubt about a particular species you would like to donate, contact the Seed Exchange.