

Upcoming Programs

Summer 2024



● **July 24**
7:00-8:00pm

Green Thumbs: Hummingbird Buffet
Selden

● **August 24**
10:00-11:30am

Seed Saving 101
Centereach

● **September 4**
7:00-8:00pm

Unusual Plants & Animals of the Pine Barrens
Centereach

● **September 25** Green Thumbs: Fall Flowers
7:00-8:00pm
Selden

MCPL SEED LIBRARY SEASONAL LEAFLET

Join us!

Seed Saving 101

Saturday August 24
10:00am-11:30am
MCPL-Centereach

Seed Saving 101 will introduce basic seed saving concepts and techniques for beginners, including what seeds can be easily saved.

Visit our Seed Library webpage for more information.

<https://www.mcplibrary.org/adults/seed-library>



#MCPLSeedLibrary

Summer 2024



Issue 7

Hello GARDENERS



About the Seed Library

The MCPL Seed Library started in 2018. Since its inception the Seed Library has grown in popularity and size; we now offer over 50 varieties of vegetables, herbs and flowers. We are always exploring new seeds to add to our collection. This year, we will be adding Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and other native flowers like Columbine, Tiger Paw Aster, and Northeast Native Wildflower Seed Mix. These seeds along with many others will be available by March just in time for the Spring!

Summer Reading Club

This year's Summer Reading Club theme is Adventure Begins at Your Library. There's still time to register and complete the Summer Reading Club. For adults, you just have to read or listen to three books before August 16th to be eligible to win some great prizes and attend our finale. You can indulge in some gardening books to fulfil your reading requirements! We've included some of our favorite and nature books for you to consider.

The ultimate goal of the Seed Library is to develop a seed saving community. As your plants go to flower and your fruits mature, you can try saving seeds. Below is a Seed Saving Guide we created to help guide you through this process. We also have a Seed Saving class scheduled for Saturday, August 24 2024 at 10am in Centereach. Click here to register for this program.

Thank you for reading and being part of the MCPL Seed Library Community. If you have any success stories about your garden that you would like to share I would love to hear from you.

MCPL Podcast



Check out the MCPL Podcast Episode 332 - Special : **The Seed Library with Amber Gagliardi**



HOUSEPLANT OF THE SEASON

Peace Lily

(*Spathiphyllum*)



As the days get longer and brighter, the sun is feeling warmer... and the air is filled with pollen particles. You can't control nature, but you can choose which plants to bring into your living space.

Peace lilies are the houseplant of choice for people who are sensitive to air pollutants. This plant was the top performer in a NASA study on clean air, removing all of the tested toxins.

Peace lilies are not true lilies. They are tropical, evergreen plants in the Arum family, native to tropical Central and South America. With enough light, they produce white to off-white flowers starting in the early summer and continue to bloom throughout the year in the right conditions.

Care:

Light: Prefer bright, indirect light. An east-facing window is a good option, since direct sunlight can burn the leaves.

Water: Water regularly, allowing the top inch of soil to dry out between waterings.

Soil: Use sandy or gravelly soil with excellent drainage.

Temperature: Peace lilies are tropical plants; they do best in temperatures between 65°F and 75°F degrees during the day and about 10° cooler at night.

Fertilizer: During the growing season in spring and summer, feed every two weeks with a liquid houseplant food.

Toxicity: Mildly toxic to pets.

Stop by our Plant Propagation Station located in Centereach to see our house plants.

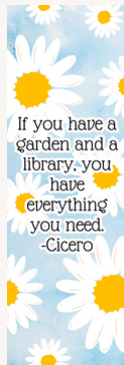
Selden's New Seed Library



Have you seen our NEW Seed Library in Selden? It's beautiful and is truly a work of art. The Selden Seed Library was custom built and will feature the same seeds available in our Centereach Seed Library. Currently, we have a small selection of seeds available since it's the end of the seed starting season but next year it will be fully stocked. We will be added some cool weather seeds in August – so be sure to stop by!

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR FABULOUS GARDENING

BOOKMARKS?



Stop by our seed library to pick one up!

MCPL SEED LIBRARY - SELDEN & CENTEREACH

Seed Saving Guide

WHY SAVE SEEDS?



Preservation:

Preserve vital plant genetic heritage.



Save Money:

By saving seeds, you eliminate the need to purchase seeds the following year.



Grow the Varieties You Want:

Seed companies often stop carrying varieties, save your seeds to make sure you always have your favorite.



Develop Regional Adaption:

Seed companies grow seeds to perform across the entire country, not specific areas. By saving your seeds, you'll ensure the crop will perform well in your particular climate soil & environment.

Seed Saving Guide

THE BASICS

Choose Open Pollinated Varieties

This variety will retain their distinct characteristics as long as they are mated with the same breed. The seeds you produce will be true-to-true and identical to the parent.

Avoid Cross Pollination

Cross-pollination is the transfer of pollen between plants. Self-pollinated plants are less susceptible to cross-pollination. Plants that are insect-pollinated or wind-pollinated are more likely to cross pollinate. Garden intervention may be needed to prevent unwanted cross-pollination, such as extra space between varieties or pollination barriers.

Annual, Biennial or Perennial

Annuals are plants that flower, set seed, and die in a single growing season.

Examples: lettuce, tomatoes, and peppers.

Biennials don't flower until their second growing season. Examples: carrots and onions.

Perennials are long-lived plants that survive and flower for many years.

Examples: asparagus

Avoid Difficult Producers

Several crops present particular challenges to beginners. We recommend getting a little experience under your belt before trying to save seeds from the following: beets/chards, carrots, escarole, onions, endive, cabbage and broccoli.

Avoid Hybrid Varieties

This variety is created by crossing plants of two different varieties. They do not produce offspring with the same traits as the parent plant.

Know How to Harvest Seeds

Dry-fruited or wet-fruited classifications. Dry-fruited are collected by simply going out to the garden, handpicking mature seedpods and bringing them into the house for drying and cleaning. Wet-fruited crops must be picked when the seeds are mature. Either crush or cut open the harvested fruit and extract the seeds.

Know How to Store Seeds

Store seeds in a cool, dark and dry place. Once dried, seeds can be sealed in airtight containers. Don't forget to label and date your seeds!

HELPFUL RESOURCES: <https://seedsavers.org/learn/seed-saving/#instructional-videos>

Check out these great reads!

NATIVE PLANT GARDENING FOR BIRDS, BEES, AND BUTTERFLIES BY JARET DANIELS

The book covers the full gamut of native plants- species of trees, shrubs, bushes, vines, grasses, perennials, and annuals-and gives details on why specific plants are bird friendly and how to choose plants that work successfully in attractive home landscapes. Includes 66 bird species, all shown in dramatic color photos.

Birders, gardeners, and landscapers-all who love birds and beautiful gardens-will find this book a must.

CALL NUMBER- 635.90974 DANIELS



THE LIVING LANDSCAPE : DESIGNING FOR BEAUTY AND BIODIVERSITY IN THE HOME GARDEN BY RICK DARKE & DOUG TALLAMY

Describes how gardeners can support sustainability and biodiversity by including in their garden plants that provide food for birds and bugs and serve as a pollination source for bees, suggesting plants for every climate and region.

CALL NUMBER: 712.2 DARKE

