



**BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY**

07-17-14

**Seed Library Protocol**

**I. Library procures licensed and properly labeled seed to give away to its patrons.**

- **How the library assembles this initial Seed Library is up to them**
  - solicit patrons, local volunteer groups, social groups, churches, etc. for seed packets meeting their specifications (traditional, heirloom, organic, ect.)
  - monetary donations to purchase seeds from local retail stores in community.
  - seeds donated by local retail stores or seed distributors

**II. Patrons “check-out” seeds from the Seed Library**

- Library gathers participant’s contact information as a member of the “Library Seed Club” (or whatever name the library chooses to call this group)
- Library provides simple ‘informational cards’ for each type of seed given out.
- Library provides information on seed-saving and saving/storage techniques.

**III. Club members take the seeds home and plant and grow them.**

- Care for and harvest seeds doing their best to follow library guidelines for producing good seeds.
- Fill out “informational cards” provided by the library to help the next growers know what they are getting and any other useful information.

**IV. Library establishes mid-season and/or post-season seed swap day(s)**

- Library acts as a meeting place for individuals to swap or trade harvested/saved seeds with other members
- The Library promotes that these seeds be planted the next season and any resulting harvested seeds be used in the next season’s seed swap(s)
- Returns to the Library will not be allowed. Members may only “check-out”/trade/swap seeds with each other.

**V. Each year the Library starts with “fresh” seeds meeting their specifications**

- Ensures there will be seeds available to plant
- Encourages new participants to participate and increase the community of growers.

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Johnny Zook** | Seed Program Supervisor  
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture | Bureau of Plant Industry  
2301 North Cameron Street | Harrisburg, PA 17110  
Phone: 717.787.4894 | Fax: 717.705.6518 | Email: [jzook@pa.gov](mailto:jzook@pa.gov)  
[www.agriculture.state.pa.us](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us)