



FAQ – Seeds of Diversity

for Seedy Saturday and Seedy Sunday events

Answers to some common questions you may get asked at the Seeds of Diversity tables.

Q: What or who is Seeds of Diversity?

A: Seeds of Diversity is a Canadian charity whose members and volunteers work to help preserve the biodiversity in our food. We do this by saving seed, sharing information about how to save seed, and facilitating seed exchanges – like this Seedy Saturday – across the country.

Q: Where are you based?

A: Seeds of Diversity's staff members are based in Waterloo, ON, and in Quebec, but our members – without whom our work would be impossible – are distributed across the country, and even in the United States.

Q: How can I get involved?

A: Become a member (for free!). Members receive our monthly email bulletin. These are available in English and French, and keep members up to date on Seeds of Diversity's seed conservation work, news about seed issues in Canada and around the world, and offer handy do-it-yourself instructions for saving seeds, gardening, and attracting native pollinators. Members also receive the annual Seed Directory in early winter each year, linking them to other members who offer over 3000 different kinds of vegetable, grain, fruit, herb, and flower seeds. In addition to this, Members are able to sign up for exclusive grow-out opportunities, helping to keep the seeds in the Seed Library viable.

Q: Why do you save seed?

A: We believe that when we save seeds, we are helping build a self-reliant food system, and creating a new relationship with the plants, pollinators and seeds that keep us fed. Without a strong seed system, we can't possibly build a vibrant and resilient food system!

Q: What else do you do?

A: We maintain the Canadian Seed Library, maintain the Great Canadian Garlic collection, do research on organic seed production methods, run a youth in food systems program, and more! Check out our programs at www.seeds.ca.

Q: What do you do for Seedy Saturday events?

A: We act as an umbrella organization of sorts for events across the country. Each event is individually organized and executed, and we certainly don't take ownership of any, but we do provide supports each year. Some of the supports we offer are: seed packets for seed exchange tables, virtual presentations on seeds and food topics (our Speaker Series), virtual meetings for organizers to share ideas and inspiration, and help to promote events on our website and social media channels.

Q: Can I buy seed from Seeds of Diversity?

A: Yes and no. We are not a seed company, so we do not sell seeds. We are a member-to-member seed exchange organization, so members share seeds with each other. When you join Seeds of Diversity, you get our members-only Seed Directory, which is published in January or February each year. You can then get the seeds listed in the directory from other members. We hope you will re-grow the plant, or grow other heritage plants, and offer the seed to others through the directory the next year. The other way to get seeds through us is by signing up for a Seed Library grow-out, offered each spring. The seeds grown out through this program are sent back to us to maintain a healthy collection of samples, but the seeds harvested are often plentiful enough to keep some for yourself.

Q: Are you on social media?

A: Yes! We are on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Links to all of our social media channels can be found on our business card (there should be some on the table) and on our website.

Q: How do we get in touch?

A: For more information about what we do, or to get in touch with us, visit www.seeds.ca