

17. SEEDKEEPING CHART

<i>Plant (Latin Name)</i>	Easy to Save	Life Cycle	Wet or Dry-Seeded	Self or Cross-Pollinating	Isolation Distance*	Optimum Pop Size**	Seeds Easy to Clean?
BEAN (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>)	easy	annual	dry	self	5' ✿	5 ♣	yes
BEET (<i>Beta vulgaris</i>)	advanced ☼	biennial	dry	cross	1 mile	200	no
BROCCOLI (<i>Brassica oleracea</i>)	intermediate ◆	biennial	dry	cross	1 mile	60	yes
BRUSSELS SPROUTS (<i>Brassica oleracea</i>)	advanced ☼	biennial	dry	cross	1 mile	60	yes
CABBAGE (<i>Brassica oleracea</i>)	advanced ☼	biennial	dry	cross	1 mile	60	yes
CARROT (<i>Daucus carota</i>)	advanced ☼	biennial	dry	cross	1 mile	200	no
CORN (<i>Zea mays</i>)	intermediate ◆	annual	wet	cross	1 mile	200	yes
CUCUMBER (<i>Cucumis sativus</i>)	intermediate ◆	annual	wet	cross	1 mile	25	yes ☼
EGGPLANT (<i>Solanum melongena</i>)	easy	annual	wet	self	80'	25	yes
FLOWERS (<i>diverse species</i>)	intermediate ◆	annual	dry	cross	1 mile	25	depends!
HERBS (<i>diverse species</i>)	intermediate ◆♥	annual	dry	cross	1 mile	25	depends!
GARLIC (<i>Allium sativum</i>)	easy	biennial	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
KALE (<i>Brassica napus</i>)	intermediate ◆	biennial	dry	cross	1 mile	60	yes
KOHLRABI (<i>Brassica oleracea</i>)	advanced ☼	biennial	dry	cross	1 mile	60	yes
LETTUCE (<i>Lactuca sativa</i>)	easy ♥	annual	dry	self	5' ✿	5 ♣	yes ‡
MELON (<i>Cucumis melo, Citrullus lanatus</i>)	intermediate ◆	annual	wet	cross	1 mile	200	yes
ONION/LEEK (<i>Allium cepa, Allium porrum</i>)	advanced ☼	biennial	dry	cross	1 mile	200	yes
PARSNIP (<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>)	advanced ☼	biennial	dry	cross	1 mile	200	yes
PEA (<i>Pisum sativum</i>)	easy	annual	dry	self	5' ✿	5 ♣	yes
PEPPER (<i>Capsicum annuum</i>)	intermediate ◆	annual	wet	self	‡ see note below	5 ♣	yes
POTATO (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>)	easy	annual	wet	‡ see note below	‡ see note below	‡ see below	yes
PUMPKIN (<i>Curcubita pepo</i>)	easy ◆	annual	wet	cross	1 mile	25	yes
RADISH (<i>Raphanus sativus</i>)	easy ♥	weak biennial	dry	cross	1 mile	60	yes
RUTABAGA (<i>Brassica napust</i>)	advanced ☼	biennial	dry	cross	1 mile	60	yes
SPINACH (<i>Spinacea oleracea</i>)	easy ♥	weak biennial	dry	cross	1 mile	60	no
SQUASH (<i>Curcubita pepo</i>)	intermediate ◆	annual	wet	cross	1 mile	25	yes
TOMATO (<i>Lycopersicon lycopersicum</i>)	intermediate ◆	annual	wet	self	1 mile	5 ♣	yes ☼

Keep in mind the easiest seeds to save are self-pollinated annuals that have easy seeds to clean.

◆ easy when isolated from other varieties sharing the same species

♥ resist saving seeds from the plants that bolt (go to seed) first, so you're selecting for longer vegetative windows. (Select in the opposite way for fruiting crops like tomatoes: save seeds from the first fruit(s)!

☼ overwintering can be a challenge, especially in short seasons (with rodent pressure)!

✿ profoundly self-pollinating, these plants can bloom closer and not cross, so 5' is simply to make it easier to not physically cross them when harvesting, fun fact: beans & pea flowers are pollinated before they even open.

♣ technically only 1 seed/plant can grow seeds and resist inbreeding depression, but the more the merrier!

*Isolation Distance: Physical barriers (barns, forest, a field of other blossoms) reduce this number. Also, if you're not concerned with plants crossing, let them cross!

**Optimum Pop Size: Though larger populations are less susceptible to inbreeding depression, seed can be saved from smaller population sizes. If you're growing less total plants in a given generation, aim to have this # of plants crossing within 5 plant generations.

☼ ferment seeds before drying

‡ LETTUCE when seedheads are individually harvested to minimize chaff)

‡ PEPPER 60' between sweet, 300' to isolate from hot with absolute confidence

‡ POTATO Pollinating: tubers n/a, flowers self — Isolation Distance: for tubers, n/a flowers cross within 50' — Optimum Pop Size: tubers n/a; flowers 25'