

Seed Saving Organizations and Selected Seed Companies

February, 2025

In the past 25 years, there has been a huge consolidation in the seed industry with four multinational conglomerates, Bayer/Monsanto, Corteva (Dow/Dupont), ChemChina (Syngenta) and BASF now owning over 60% of commercially available seed. [Here is the most updated map](#) (2022) documenting the seed industry consolidation, prepared by Phil Howard, Michigan State University.

Whoever controls our seed, controls our food.

Many of the seed companies, cooperatives and seed exchanges listed below didn't exist 20 years ago. The first list below is organized by geographic proximity to our seed garden in Sebastopol, CA. These companies represent an alternative to the corporations that are trying to own the world's seed. Many focus on sustainable growing practices, transparency and keeping seeds in the public commons. Some of them produce their own seed, and some buy seed grown by others, but all of them are weaving together a new fabric of locally controlled, bio-diverse seed and food systems.

When seed is grown in similar climate and growing conditions to yours, the more quickly and better adapted the seed will be to your garden. Many of the following companies indicate where the seed was grown and by whom. No matter where your seed is originally grown, you can adapt it to your garden conditions by saving it from healthy plants every year and replanting it.

Given the unpredictable nature of climate change, planning our food gardens is becoming more challenging. Should you plant varieties that can withstand hot and dry conditions or wet and cold? What about disease or pest resistance? Planting more than one variety of a crop that each have different tolerances, increases the possibilities for a successful harvest. For crops that cross pollinate, the blending of the genes can provide even greater resilience. Using shorter season varieties might also be a good strategy for getting your crops in and out of the garden faster and potentially avoiding damaging weather.

From year to year, Community Seed Exchange volunteers replant using our saved seed, but sometimes we need fresher seed or we want to introduce a new variety into our rotation. We only use open pollinated varieties that are not restricted by patents or other intellectual property mechanisms. We try to order seed from smaller, regional seed companies, but sometimes when a variety isn't offered by any of our close-in sources, we go farther afield.

And while we have procured seed from many on the following lists, we have not done business with everyone. Please use your own discretion when ordering seed.

Seed Companies We Like

Listed by geographic proximity to Community Seed Exchange, Sebastopol, California

Community Seed Exchange

Sebastopol, California

Living Seed Company

Point Reyes Station, California

Quail Seeds

Mendocino County, California

Open Circle Seeds

Potter Valley, California

Redwood Seeds

Manton, California

Wild Boar Farms

Citrus Heights, California

Adaptive Seeds

Sweet Home, Oregon

Deep Harvest Farm

Whidbey Island, Washington

Nichols Garden Nursery

Philomath Oregon

Peace Seedlings

Corvallis, Oregon

Resilient Seeds

Bellingham, Washington

Restoration Seeds

Talent, Oregon

Siskiyou Seeds

Williams, Oregon

Territorial Seeds

Cottage Grove, Oregon

Uprising Seeds

Bellingham, Washington

Wild Garden Seed

Philomath, Oregon

Experimental Farm Network

Pennsylvania

Fedco Seeds

Maine

Going to Seed

Utah and California

Grand Prismatic Seed

Utah

High Mowing Seeds

Vermont

Hudson Valley Seed Company

New York

Miss Penn's Mountain Seeds

Colorado

Native Seeds/SEARCH

Arizona

Prairie Road Organic Seed

North Dakota

Row 7 Seeds

New York

Sand Hill Preservation Center

Iowa

Seed Savers Exchange

Iowa

Snake River Seed Cooperative

Intermountain West

Southern Exposure Seed Exchange

Virginia

Triple Divide Organic Seeds Co-op

Montana

Turtle Tree Seed

New York

Notes and additional seed companies that may be of interest:

Amkha Seed - Colorado - specializing in underutilized and under appreciated food and utility crops for sustainable and permaculture gardening. As of February, 2025 orders are paused, as the company moves to a bigger location.

Canadian seed companies

Salt Spring Seeds and **BC Eco Seed cooperative** and others- will not ship to the US

Cicada Seeds-selling annual, biennial and perennial vegetable seeds from Vancouver Island. It will ship to US, but buyer must obtain a Small Lot Seed Permit before purchasing.

Tatiana's Tomatobase - Database for tomatoes - not updated recently

Baker Creek - Missouri - unusual vegetable and flower varieties, but sources not listed in most cases. From the 2025 catalog: "All our seed is non-hybrid, non-GMO, non-treated, and non-patented. We do not buy seed from Bayer-owned Seminis, and we are not members of the pro-GMO American Seed Trade Organization. We source our seeds from our seed production fields, our network of growers, and other trusted companies." The company also says it does germination testing to comply with federal standards. We experienced poor germination on seeds purchased many years ago. Hopefully that has been remedied.

Botanical Interests - Colorado - sells in retail stores as well as on line. Seed sources not listed.

Buffalo Seed Co - Kansas - all seeds are produced in eastern Kansas and western Missouri - 300 varieties of heirlooms, landraces, medicinals and wild natives. Sells seed vessels.

Common Wealth Seed Growers -Virginia - "Cooperative project to research, breed, produce and sell regionally-adapted, open-pollinated seeds for a limited number of outstanding varieties. We grow all the seeds we sell, and we only sell what grows well on our farms. We don't sell outsourced or commodity seeds!" Seeds are grown on 6 farms in Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina.

Cucumber Shop - Fairfield, California - hobby business that specializes in sourcing open-pollinated cucumber and cucumber-melon varieties.

Eloheh Farm and Seeds - Oregon - is a charitable non-profit, teaching-farm and organization. Purchased seed inventory from Daggawalla Seeds and added seeds to it. Many of their seeds come from their own Indigenous or other Indigenous tribal peoples.

Fedco Seeds - Maine - Supplier codes are listed next to each variety so you can choose the growers or companies you want to support. From page 4 of its 2025 catalog:
Know where your seed comes from! 1-Small seed farmers including Fedco staff. 2- Family-owned companies or cooperatives, domestic and foreign. 3- Domestic and foreign corporations not part of a larger conglomerate. 4- Multinationals not to our knowledge engaged in genetic engineering. 5- Multinationals who are engaged in genetic engineering. Fedco no longer buys from Syngenta, manufacturer of neonicotinoids.
It does not offer genetically engineered varieties, although it purchases seed from corporations engaged in genetic engineering.

Fruition Seeds - New York - No longer sells seed; seeds are gifted and relationships are built. Specializes in short season, regionally adapted varieties - 60% of seeds grown on its farm.

High Desert Seed and Gardens - Colorado - high altitude, short season growers - seeds are chosen for their hardiness and sustainability in high desert conditions.

Johnny's - Maine - sells over 2,000 varieties and is geared toward market farmers. Sells many F1 hybrids and some patented varieties.

Kitazawa Seed Company - formerly in Oakland, California - It was founded in 1917 and specialized in asian herb, vegetable and flower seeds. In 2024, the company was incorporated into True Leaf Market, based in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Kitazawa seeds have their own section on the True Leaf Market website.

Lineage Seeds - New Mexico - organic open pollinated seeds grown on the farm or by a regional grower or other trusted peer. Seeds sold with clay storage pots.

MASA Seed Foundation (Mutual Admiration Seed Association) - Colorado - Founded by Richard Pecoraro, who in 1990 helped facilitate the launching of the nation's first 100% organic non-hybrid seed company, "Seeds of Change." The Masa Seed Foundation is a non profit created to build a regional seed bank, a seed growers' cooperative, and to distribute organic seeds and produce food for hunger relief.

Nature and Nurture Seeds - Michigan - heirloom, organic/sustainable & non-GMO seeds for diverse farms and gardens. Sell seeds from Slow Food's Ark of Taste. Specializes in seeds for short seasons that are adapted to growing in the north and midwest.

Renee's Garden - California - conventional and organic seeds from all over the world - 75 varieties are organic. The company purchases and repackages seeds that have performed well in its trial gardens on the west and east coasts.

Seed Savers Exchange - Iowa - Started 50 years ago and maintains 20,000 varieties of seeds. On line, "The Exchange", lists additional seeds available from individuals.

Sow True Seed - North Carolina - "...sourcing as much of our seed as possible from small-scale growers. When we buy from U.S. small-scale farmers, we support a food system that is more robust and resilient."

Victory Seed Co - Texas - founded in 1998 by Mike Dunton's family in Oregon. Retail part of the seed company was sold to the Whiting family in Texas, in 2022. Victory Seeds remains one of the homes for seeds of Craig LeHoullier and Patrina Nuske Small's, Dwarf Tomato Project .

Other sources for seeds:

Seed Libraries – Richmond Grows, Richmond, CA - <http://www.richmondgrowsseeds.org/>

List of other seed libraries - <https://www.seedlibrarynetwork.org/>

Farmers' Markets

Community Gardens

Local seed swaps

Neighbors, relatives

Additional Resources:

ETC Group – Corporate control of the Food Chain – Too Big to Feed: The Short Report

Mega-mergers and the concentration of power in the agri-food sector: How dominant firms have become too big to feed humanity sustainably

GRAIN - a small international non-profit organization that works to support small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems.

Robin Wall Kimmerer - SUNY Distinguished teaching professor of Environmental Biology. She is a Citizen of the Potawatomi Nation and is the author of The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World, and Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants. Her article "Corn Tastes Better on the Honor System" was published in Emergence Magazine in 2018.

Landrace Gardening - Joseph Lofthouse

His articles published on Mother Earth News.

Book - Landrace Gardening: Food Security through Biodiversity and Promiscuous Pollination.

Joseph is one of the founders of Going to Seed.

Navdanya - Vandana Shiva's effort to bring attention to the importance of seed sovereignty.

Open Source Seed Initiative - "Today, only a handful of companies account for most of the world's commercial breeding and seed sales. Increasingly, patenting is used to enhance the power and control of these companies over the seeds and the farmers that feed the world. Patented seeds cannot be saved, replanted, or shared by farmers and gardeners. And because there is no research exemption for patented material, plant breeders at universities and small seed companies cannot use patented seed to create the new crop varieties that should be the foundation of a just and sustainable agriculture. Inspired by the free and open source software movement that has provided alternatives to proprietary software, OSSSI was created to free the seed —to make sure that the genes in at least some seed can never be locked away from use by intellectual property rights."

Organic Seed Alliance - advocacy for organic seed and decentralized seed systems.

Rowen White is a seed keeper from the Mohawk community of Akwesasne and a passionate activist for seed sovereignty. She is the founder of Sierra Seeds, based in northern California. Her writing can be found on Substack.