

Contents

Foreword by Bill McDorman and Belle Starr	xi
Introduction	1
1 A Growing Movement	5
Hybrid vs. Open Pollinated Seeds	8
Grassroots Seed Saving and Sharing	11
In the News	15
Find Seeds Native to You	15
2 Why Save Seeds?	17
Preserve Genetic Diversity	17
Preserve Flavor and Nutrition	20
Preserve Unique Varieties	22
Preserve Cultural Heritage	23
Develop Strains Unique to Your Microclimate	24
Attract Beneficial Insects	25
Save Money	27
Learn New Skills	27
Make Seeds a Part of Your Life	28

3 The Role of Public Libraries	31
Staff and Friends	34
Places to Foster Creativity	35
Part of the Landscape	37
Gathering Together	39
Declaring Seed Independence in Public	40
4 Other Entities to Pair With	43
Transition Movement	43
Permaculture Organizations	46
Student Groups, Citizen Groups, and Land Trusts	47
Museums and Elsewhere	50
Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners	51
5 Seeds	55
Where to Find Seeds	56
Care of Seeds	57
Germination Test	60
Plant Population Numbers	63
Seed Saver Organizations	64
Seed School	67
6 Getting Started	71
Mission Statement and Name	72
Budget and Funding	75
Define the Space	78
Website and Social Media	79
Graphics	82
Education	83
7 Packaging, Signups, and Other Details	85
Packets or Bulk	85
Labeling	87
Skill Level	90
Making Seed Available	95

Patron Notebook	97
References to Have Available.	98
Make Your Own Seed Catalog	99
Learn From Others	100
8 Attracting Patrons	103
Start Early.	104
Photography, Art, and Music	104
Join With Other Events	107
Make Use of Volunteers	109
Launch Party.	109
Orientation.	110
Continuing Education	111
9 Keeping the Momentum	113
Presentations and Classes	114
Movie Nights and Book Clubs	115
Stories and Histories	117
Children's Programs	119
Work Parties	121
Eat the Bounty	121
Promote Seed Gardens	122
Seed Stewards	125
Pace Yourself.	125
10 Seed Swaps and Other Means of Sharing	129
Seedy Days	131
National Seed Swap Day.	133
Seed Banks	133
Share What You Have.	137
Start a Seed Company.	139
Become an Activist	141
11 We Are Living in Exciting Times!	143
Where Are They Now?	145
Follow Your Heart.	147

Afterword	149
Resources	153
Eating Locally	153
Gardening	153
Plant Breeding	155
Safe Seed Pledge	155
Seed Banks	155
Seed Inventories	155
Seed Library Resources	155
Seed Saving	156
Seed Saving with Children	157
Seed Saving History and People	157
Seed Saving Organizations	157
Seed Saving Supplies	158
Seed Schools	159
Seed Swaps	159
TED Talks	159
Videos	159
Webinars and Other Broadcasts	160
Notes	161
Index	167
About the Author	176