

WHY A SEED LIBRARY?

- Increases the genetic diversity of your own seed stock
- Develops a seed stock that is more resilient and better adapted to our particular climate and soil.
- Perpetuating the knowledge and culture of seed saving/gardening.
- Foster community resilience, self-reliance, and a culture of sharing.
- Providing seed to others in our community.
- Become closer to nature.
- Preserve and nurture locally adapted plant varieties.
- Save money on seeds.
- Encourages gardening and the cultivation of open pollinated and heirloom seeds.
- Grow organic produce.
- Explore plant history.
- Avoid genetically modified foods.
- Increases our ability to feed ourselves wholesome food.
- Celebrate biodiversity.



CONTACT US



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Seed Saving/Gardening Books: 631.5, 635

ONLINE RESOURCES

NOFA/Mass

www.nofamass.org

Farmer's Almanac

www.almanac.com/gardening/

Massachusetts Master Gardener Association

www.massmastergardeners.org

USDA National Agricultural Library

www.nal.usda.gov

National Gardening Association

www.garden.org

New England Vegetable Management Guide

www.nevegetable.org

SEED-SAVING TIPS

SeedSavers

www.seedsavers.org/how-to-save-seeds

Native Seeds Search

www.nativeseeds.org/pages/seed-saving-instructions

Seed Exchange

exchange.seedsavers.org

The Topsfield Town Library Seed Library is **free and open to all**. Visit our website to view an up-to-date listing of what's available in our seed library. Drawers in the Seed Library cabinet are labeled by plant type.

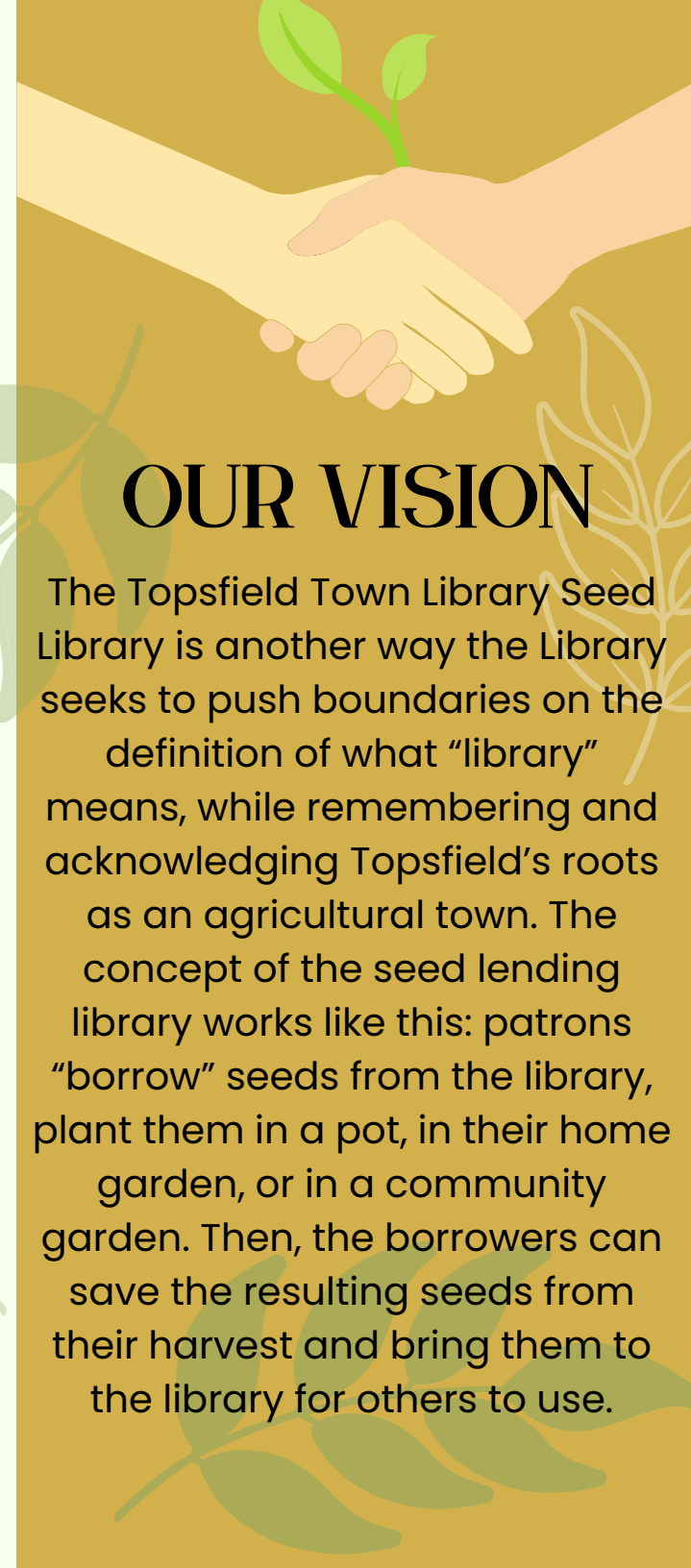
BORROWING SEEDS

To check out seeds for our seed library, simply fill out our paper form near the Seed Library cabinet (the form asks the names/varieties of packets taken, number of packets taken, and date) and deliver it to our Circulation Desk.

DONATING SEEDS

We encourage our patrons to consider returning harvested seeds from plants that are considered easy to moderate difficulty to save. This will help us in our goal of creating a self-sustaining program. For saved seeds, we provide clear packets for you to package seeds. Write all the information for the seeds you want to donate on the Seed Donation Sticker. Place your Seed envelopes in the bin labeled **Incoming Seeds**.

We accept commercial seed packages, both unopened or leftover, but please provide the original packaging when bringing items to the Seed Library. Heirloom or open-pollinated varieties are strongly preferred. Hybrids cannot be used for seed-saving purposes.



OUR VISION

The Topsfield Town Library Seed Library is another way the Library seeks to push boundaries on the definition of what "library" means, while remembering and acknowledging Topsfield's roots as an agricultural town. The concept of the seed lending library works like this: patrons "borrow" seeds from the library, plant them in a pot, in their home garden, or in a community garden. Then, the borrowers can save the resulting seeds from their harvest and bring them to the library for others to use.