**Difficult: Cross-Pollination**

Understanding pollination is key to getting seeds to produce the plants you want. Some plants are self-pollinating --the male and female parts are contained within a single flower that fertilizes itself. Other plants, called cross-pollinators, have separate male and female flowers and their pollen has to get from one flower to another in order for the flowers to be fertilized.

These are the plants that typically cross-pollinate. This means that if there is another variety around they can pollinate each other and the seeds you save will not be what you originally planted. These plants need to be isolated by about 1/4 of a mile or else will need to be hand-pollinated.

Here are some seeds in the "Difficult" category:

* Broccoli
* Cauliflower
* Cabbage
* Corn
* Pumpkins
* Squash
* Cucumbers
* Melons

**Easy: Takes a little time & know-how**

Some plants are biennials, which means they produce seeds the second growing season. These are still suitable for some beginners. The issue is do you have the space! Many of these require large populations and isolation from things that could cross-pollinate with them.

* Beets and chard
* Parsley
* Parsnips
* Carrots
* Peppers - not a biennial, but can cross with other peppers; plant only one variety of a species (need 450 ft distance from other varieties)

**Super Easy: Easy Peas-y**

These seeds can most reliably be saved by the home gardener, even if you've never saved seeds before. Watch our videos on Peas and Beans and Lettuce to help you get started.

* Peas
* Beans
* Lettuce
* Tomatoes
* Arugula
* Dill