



Valley Community Library
739 River Street
Peckville, PA 18452
570-489-1765
<http://lclshome.org/valley>

Seed Library Policy

The purpose of the Seed Library of Valley Community Library (VCL) is to encourage our community to start or continue home gardens, educate about seed saving, nurture locally-adapted plant varieties, and foster a community culture of sharing.

The Seed Library's focus is:

1. To establish, grow, and curate a depository of seeds available to all Lackawanna County Library System (LCLS) residents at no cost.
2. Provide information, instruction, and education about sustainable gardening.

Donation of Seeds

VCL accepts donations of fruit, vegetable, herb, and flower seeds from commercial seed companies, seed banks, individuals, and other local, partner organizations with a shared interest in seed collection. Donated seeds must be from open-pollinated, non-genetically modified, non-hybrid plants that are not listed as invasive species by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

(<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/WildPlants/InvasivePlants/InvasivePlantFactSheets/Pages/default.aspx>). VCL reserves the right to refuse or dispose of donated seeds that do not meet these criteria.

Donated seeds must include the following information prior to acceptance by the library: common name, variety, seed source, pesticide use, location of harvest, year of harvest, seed saving technique (dry, wet, fermentation), and any notes pertinent to the seeds. Donated seeds must be less than three years old. Donations must be made using the *VCL Seed Library Donation Form* and handed in at the library's front desk.

Organization of Seeds

Donated seeds will be sorted, packaged, and labeled by library staff or volunteers assisting with the seed library project. Seeds will be kept at the library's designated Seed Library area. A seed inventory will be maintained in a spreadsheet.

Borrowing Seeds

Participants may check out a limited amount of seed packets as determined by the library and based on inventory. Limits are subject to change as the seed library expands. Participants may check out seeds by completing the *VCL Seed Library Checkout Form* and handing in at the front desk. Check out forms will be treated with the same confidentiality as other library records. No personal information will be shared, and records will be retained only as long as administratively necessary.

Returning Seeds

Participants are encouraged to return at least twice the amount of seeds they originally borrowed. Seeds should be saved according to best practices, as explained in seed saving workshops or by partnering organizations. Alternately, the library can recommend seed saving books or literature. Seeds should not be returned to the library unless the grower knows how to properly save them. Returned seeds should be dry and labeled clearly with information specified above in the *Donation of Seeds* section. Returns must be made using the *VCL Seed Library Donation Form* and handed in at the library's front desk.

Disposal of Seeds

Seed packets may be disposed of as necessary due to age, exposure, contamination, report of problems, etc. VCL reserves the right to cease borrowing of any variety of seed at any time and to cease existence of the Seed Library at any time due to the needs of the library.