


TCCL SEED LIBRARY



We have all been to the library to check out books, but have you been to the library to check out seeds? This year, the Tulsa City-County Library (TCCL) introduced the Seed Library, a “give-and-take” approach to helping you grow your greatest garden yet. The idea is simple. You check out seeds (up to five packets per season), plant them in your garden and watch it grow. The only request from the Seed Library is that you save the seeds from your best plants and return them to the library for others to check out. However, if for some unfortunate reason your garden doesn’t flourish, you don’t need to worry about returning them. On the other hand, if you have seeds from other plants (ones not borrowed from the Seed Library) that turn out truly terrific, consider donating them to the library instead.

“The idea for the Seed Library was originally a suggestion from our customers,” said Johanna Burton, one of the Seed Library coordinators. “NPR ran a story about seed libraries and several people suggested we start one. We looked into the idea, but it wasn’t quite the right moment. However, I was intrigued and started going to events and collecting and sharing home-saved seeds. Interest started to build, and it became the right moment. Then, our ‘Green Team’ got it started.”

All of the seeds in the TCCL Seed Library are open pollinated and most are heirloom. The Seed Library strives to foster locally-adapted varieties of plants, and by saving and donating seeds, you are making their offspring even more adapted for Oklahoma weather and soil.

The Seed Library concedes that seed saving does require a little bit of know-how, but never fear. The library is making it as simple as possible by offering plenty of helpful tips, online resources and reference books.

Four TCCL locations (Glenpool, Nathan Hale, Suburban Acres and Zarrow) and the library’s Bookmobile have seeds available for check out. Seeds available for check out include parsley, radish, cucumber, green bean, squash, carrot, tomato, morning glory, hollyhock and much more. To view the complete list of seeds available for check out, answers to frequently asked questions and Seed Library addresses, visit <http://guides.tulsalibrary.org/tulsaseedlibrary>. You can also call (918) 549-7423 for more information.

*by Erin Shackelford
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