

ABOUT SEED LIBRARIES

What is a seed library?

A seed library is an institution that lends or shares seeds. Seed libraries are designed to promote gardening and develop seeds that can become acclimated to our local climate.

Why have a seed library?

A seed library provides free fruit and vegetable seeds to the community, encourages gardening, educates people about gardening, and creates community.

Why have a garden?

- Learn new skills
- Enjoy a highly nutritious diet
- Save money on produce
- Grow your own food
- Know where your food is coming from
- Explore a new source of exercise and relaxation
- Build soil and give life to the lawn

CHECKING OUT SEEDS

Seeds can be checked out at all Leon County Public Library locations and are yours to keep.

Check out up to five seed packets per month using your library card, or three packets per month without a library card, while supplies last.

Library cards are free to all Leon County residents, students, and property owners.

Scan the QR code to sign up for a library card or visit LeonCountyLibrary.org/LibraryCard



Library Locations

Leon County Main Library

200 West Park Avenue
(850) 606-2665

Bruce J. Host Northeast Branch Library

5513 Thomasville Road
(850) 606-2800

Dr. B.L. Perry, Jr. Branch Library

2817 South Adams Street
(850) 606-2950

Eastside Branch Library

1583 Pedrick Road
(850) 606-2750

Jane G. Sauls Ft. Braden Branch Library

16327 Blountstown Highway
(850) 606-2900

Lake Jackson Branch Library

3840 North Monroe Street
(850) 606-2850

Woodville Branch Library

8000 Old Woodville Road
(850) 606-2925



Learn more at:
LeonCountyLibrary.org/SeedLibrary



Check out seeds from any
Leon County Public Library



GROWING INSTRUCTIONS

See "Spring Planting Dates" for additional information.

Seeding Into Small Containers

Supplies: Seeds, starting pots (plastic cells, newspaper pots, yogurt cups with drainage holes, etc.), starting mix (may include peat, vermiculite, and fine worm castings), drain tray, and spray bottle/pump sprayer.

Process: Fill starting pots/cells with pre-moistened starting mix. In each, make a shallow indentation into the starting mix with your finger and place 1-2 seeds into each hole. The seeds should be covered to a depth of 2-3 times the diameter of the seed. Label. Mist with water. Keep moist but not water-logged. Protect your plantings from cold weather (for spring varieties, germination is best between 75-90°F). Once the seedlings germinate, they need full sun (at least six hours of direct sunlight).

Up-Potting Into Larger Containers

Supplies: 2"-4" wide pots and potting mix (may include peat, perlite, compost, pine bark, worm castings, fertilizer, and other nutrient amendments).

Process: Once seedlings develop "true" leaves, they can be moved into larger pots. Fill the pots halfway with well-moistened potting mix. Thoroughly water the seedlings and carefully remove each from the starting pot (a butter knife helps) and place them in a larger pot. Add additional potting mix until the seedling is secure, standing straight, and all roots are covered.

Transplanting Into the Garden

Supplies: Small spade and a garden with nutrient-rich soil.

Process: Once the plant has established strong roots and is about the height of its pot, it can be transplanted into the garden. Allow the plant to "harden-off" by placing it outdoors a week before transplanting to adjust to wind, sunlight, and varying temperatures. Prepare the garden with compost and other soil amendments. Water the plant thoroughly. Dig a small hole and place the plant with potting mix into the hole, following plant spacing requirements. Cover up the roots and keep the soil moistened but not water-logged.

Direct Seeding Into the Garden

Supplies: Seeds, rake, and a garden with nutrient-rich soil.

Process: Prepare the garden for seeding by raking the soil or remove large soil debris by hand. Make a shallow trench or lightly press the seed into soil, following seed spacing requirements. Cover the seed with soil to a depth of 2-3 times the diameter of the seed. Gently water and keep soil moist.

SPRING 2026 VARIETIES

- Basil, Red Rubin
- Bean, Strike
- Cantaloupe, Iroquois
- Corn, Golden Bantam 8
- Eggplant, Galaxy of Stars
- Okra, Hill Country Red
- Pepper, Sweet Mini Belle Mix
- Spinach, Malabar Green Vines Supreme
- Tomato, Pineapple
- Tomato, Cherry Tiny Tim

Growing Questions?

Contact the Leon County Extension Office at (850) 606-5200 or scan the QR code to view the North Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide.



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[Facebook.com/LeonCountyExtension](https://www.facebook.com/LeonCountyExtension)

SPRING PLANTING DATES

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Basil		S	DT	DT	DT		
Beans			D	D	D		
Cantaloupe	S		DT	DT			
Corn			D	D			D
Eggplant	S		T	T	T		
Okra	S		SDT	SDT	DT	DT	DT
Peppers	S	S	T	T	T	T	
Spinach-like Greens	S		DT	T			
Tomatoes	S	T	T				

CALENDAR KEY

Planting Method

S - Seed into containers

D - Direct seed into garden

T - Transplant into garden

Color Code

Overall good planting time

Needs frost protection

Risky planting time

Needs shade cloth

Planting dates were developed from the Red Hills Small Farm Alliance (RHSFA) and Full Earth Farm planting calendar.

Access a more detailed planting calendar and learn about the RHSFA at RedHillsFarmAlliance.com