



A Small Garden Seed Library: Save Three Plants and Know What You Actually Kept



A PRACTICAL COMPANION TO THE GUIDE

Build a three-plant seed library with collection labels, a drying record, storage decisions, and a small germination trial before next spring.

HOW TO USE THESE PAGES

- 01 Read the guide and choose one manageable starting point.
- 02 Complete the six exercises with details from your own home.
- 03 Return to the record and keep the adjustment that helped.

Small enough to begin. Specific enough to use again.

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EXERCISE 01

Choose three known plants

List the plant, confirmed variety, packet source, and garden location for each collection. Mark hybrid, open-pollinated, or unknown. Write whether the batch is for predictable planting or experimentation. Leave an unknown name unresolved rather than inventing certainty; choose another plant if identity is not secure.

YOUR WORKING RECORD

DECISION / NEXT ACTION / CHECK DATE

EXERCISE 02

Record the collection conditions

For each batch, note the date, recent weather, seed-head or pod condition, and how much you left on the plant. Draw or photograph the parent plant. Give the batch a short code and put it on every container before collecting. This ties the physical seed to a specific source.

YOUR WORKING RECORD

DECISION / NEXT ACTION / CHECK DATE

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EXERCISE 03



Keep a drying log

Record where the seeds dry, how they are spread, and when you inspect them. Note moisture, chaff removal, or signs of spoilage. Do not fill in a predetermined completion date. Record the observed condition that led you to move the seeds into storage.

YOUR WORKING RECORD

DECISION / NEXT ACTION / CHECK DATE

EXERCISE 04

Create an honest envelope label

Write plant name, variety, collection date, batch code, parent source, and any uncertainty. Add a warning if the seeds are not for food use. Include a planned growing season and storage location. If batches mixed, say so prominently rather than maintaining a false variety label.

YOUR WORKING RECORD

DECISION / NEXT ACTION / CHECK DATE

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EXERCISE 05

Plan a species-appropriate trial

Write the germination method, temperature guidance, pretreatment if required, sample size, and check dates. Record normal sprouts separately from mold or damaged seedlings. Turn the result into a practical planting decision: sow extra, retest, use backup seed, or retire the batch.

YOUR WORKING RECORD

DECISION / NEXT ACTION / CHECK DATE

EXERCISE 06

Close the loop next season

Record what actually grew, where you planted it, and which traits changed. Keep photographs with the batch code. Decide whether to save again from this plant or return to a purchased variety. A completed record includes the next generation, not simply the day you filled an envelope.

YOUR WORKING RECORD

DECISION / NEXT ACTION / CHECK DATE
