

Seed Saving Guide for Lettuce

- member of the *Aster* Family
- ideal for beginners
- annual life cycle
- keep different lettuce varieties 10-20 feet apart
- save seed from at least 1-2 plants
- seed longevity around 6 years



To harvest seeds:

- avoid overhead watering while lettuce plants are flowering to improve seed production
- flowers look & behave like tiny dandelions - they open, close, then reopen with a fluffy seed head
- seeds are mature when you see the fluffy seed head - called feathering - around 2-3 weeks after flowering
- pick the seed heads & place in a container in a protected location out of the rain to finish drying for a day or so

To clean seeds:

- thresh by rubbing seed heads between your hands inside a bag or over a container to remove plant material
- the seeds will be mixed in with the chaff so you'll need to separate them using a method below:
 - a. pick out the seeds by hand
 - b. pour the mix onto a screen or strainer
 - c. pour the mix onto a flat tray and gently lift one end so gravity lets the seed roll down but chaff remains at the top
 - d. pour the mix into a bowl & gently shake the bowl while you blow away the chaff - a process is called winnowing

Be sure seeds are completely dry before returning them to the Seed Library or storing them at home for yourself.



Funding for the seed library provided by a grant from the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District.



Growing & Seed Saving Guides researched & written by Master Gardeners of Cornell Cooperative Extension Warren County

Autumn Goerner
agoerner@sals.edu
518-792-6508 ext. 265
crandalllibrary.org/library-services/seed-library/



crandalllibrary.org
251 Glen Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801