**HOW CARLISLE BENEFITS WHEN MORE PEOPLE GROW FROM SEEDS**

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Less expensive route to gardens and landscapes; fun to exchange and “talk” seeds; know exactly what you have; interesting to learn & interact with environment; track biodiversity & pollinator population. Benefits include carbon sequestration, erosion control, greater population of native & heirloom plants, more abundant & tasty harvest, soil restoration, a more “verdant and peaceful universe”…

1. **GROWING FROM SEED**
2. Seed-starting schedule for 01741 (<http://awaytogarden.com/when-to-start-seeds-calculator/> ) keeping the plants coming through succession planting ( to learn more about that, see <http://awaytogarden.com/vegetable-garden-tuneup-make-room-for-more/> ; also <http://awaytogarden.com/keep-on-truckin-fall-vegetable-garden-with-seed-library/> )
3. What seeds to use\* (\*see webinar Q&A @ <http://awaytogarden.com/new-webinar-event-unlocking-seed-secrets/> )
4. How long do seeds last? (<http://awaytogarden.com/estimating-viability-how-long-do-seeds-last/> ) A link at <http://awaytogarden.com/germination-testing-of-seeds/> describes germination tests in some detail. Do these tests early, BEFORE the actual seed starting date!
5. **SEEDS TO USE**
6. Saved seeds
7. Seeds shared & exchanged with others
8. Best quality purchased seed. (organic, open pollinated, heirlooms)
9. Seeds that support local pollinators – interplant flowers with vegetables for good pollination, hedgerows near crop rows
10. Sufficient density of pollinator plants to attract and feed pollinators – throughout season!
11. **A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT SAVING SEEDS**
12. USE OPEN-POLLINATED (OP) VARIETIES. Hybrid seeds will not produce plants that are true to form, and GMO seeds are licensed & illegal to re-use – among other problems. OP also best to support native pollinators.
13. When to harvest – learn by experience. Seed must be fully ripe. There are good books.
14. Three processes: wet, dry fermented. See **Seed Saving 101** fromConcord Seed Lending Library for details.
15. Store in dry (zip-lock bags sealed with duct tape); below 50 degrees, best in freezer (in sealed box). When you remove them from freezer, defrost thoroughly before you remove the duct tape and open the zip-lock bag.
16. **THOUGHTS FOR THE FUTURE: A CARLISLE SEED LIBRARY?**

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**FOLLOWING PAGES: MORE on SEED SAVING**

HOMEGROWN SEEDS by Tevis Robertson-Goldberg, Crabapple Farm, Chesterfield, MA

<https://crabapplefarm.org/>







