

SEED STORAGE GUIDELINES

Congratulations on your recent purchase of Ark Institute's **100% non-hybrid, non-GMO** produce seed. Whether your goal is to help lower your grocery bills by growing your own veggies, or to begin planning for a food-supply emergency or anything in between, The Ark Institute is the right place to start. Unlike the predominantly hybridized and genetically modified (GMO) seed that is available via retail and being used and engineered by commercial agrochemical giants like Monsanto and others, non-GMO non-hybrid seed from The Ark Institute can be harvested, stored and re-used year after year, for total food-sustainability.

If you are new to seed harvesting and saving, we hope you purchased a copy of [Seed Sowing and Saving](#), available through The Ark Institute. We consider this book an essential resource, as it is as easy to read and understand as it is thorough. This summary below is merely an overview of how to store your seed to have the best chances of germination in the future, and some deeper information is available in the FAQ section of our website at www.arkinstitute.com. While these resources are meant to help, they are not meant to replace [Seed Sowing and Saving](#) or other manuals for proper seed handling.

The most up-to-date version of our seed storage guidelines can also be found on our website in the FAQ section.

AMBIENT SEED STORAGE:

The 2 words to remember when it comes to storage of your produce seed are **cool** and **dry – the colder and dryer the better**. Fluctuations in heat and humidity are seeds' worst enemy. Dry storage at less than 65 degrees (F) should carry your seed from one season to the next, and even for a season or two. The best conditions for storage of any longer than this is to dry and freeze your seed, which we can help you do as well.

FROZEN SEED STORAGE:

Most seeds, if properly dried and frozen, can retain germination for 40 years or more. That being said, it is recommended to rotate your harvested seed with your frozen seed to ensure long-term seed germination. Prior to freezing, you **MUST** dry your seed to between 5-10% moisture content to prevent the seed moisture from expanding and killing the cells of the seed. This can be done by using an amount of food-grade desiccant equal in weight to the amount of seed you are drying. Place the seed pouches and desiccant into an airtight container (plastic and zip-top bags are NOT airtight) and store for 4-7 days, depending on the amount and size of the seed being dried. Once dry, you can either place the entire container into a freezer or quickly dump out the desiccant and then re-seal the container and place in the freezer.

We offer **Seed Preservation Kits**, including extremely durable and sealable Mylar bags and FDA-approved desiccant pouches, which can be used to properly seal and dry your seed, and the seed can then be frozen until needed, as well as **"Freezer Ready" packages**, where we do the drying and sealing for you. See our store or call us for more information.

Thank you for trusting The Ark Institute for your non-GMO, non-hybrid seed needs. We look forward to helping you reach your sustainability and self-reliance needs.

Best wishes!

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