



Nature & Nurture Seeds'

How to Store Your Seeds

Properly stored seeds will last many years. Keep seeds dry, from freezing, and avoid high temperatures. In order to get the longest life out of your seeds you can store them using one of the following methods:

- In a sealed mason jar in the refrigerator. Open the jar at least once per year to allow oxygen inside the jar so that your seeds can breathe!
- In a paper bag or box in the fridge (not the freezer)
- In a sealed mason jar in a cool area of the house.



Wondering if your seeds are good?

Easily test their germination!

- 1) Place a small portion of the seeds (at least 20 seeds) in a damp paper towel in a ziplock bag.
- 2) Leave them in a warm place (such as above the refrigerator).
- 3) Monitor the seeds and count how many seeds germinate and how many do not. Most seeds will germinate well this way, with the exception of pepper and eggplant seeds, which like high temperatures. They may have trouble germinating in this manner.



How “good” you want your germination rate is a personal preference. As a seed company, we are required to have good germination rates that differ for each crop, but for those that we carry, they are mostly above 80%. As a home gardener, you can use whichever seeds you like!

How long do seeds last?

Most seeds, if kept in suitable storage conditions, will keep 3 years or more on average. Onion seeds are one exception, and will only maintain a good germ rate for about a year, even if stored under suitable conditions. Here is a list of common crops and their average storage life under optimal conditions.

| Crop | Average Life of Seeds in Storage (years) |
|-----------------|---|
| Amaranth | 4-5 |
| Arugula | 6 |
| Basil | 3-5 |
| Beans | 2-4 |
| Beets | 2-5 |
| Broccoli | 3-5 |
| Cabbage | 3-5 |
| Calendula | 4-6 |
| Carrots | 3-4 |
| Chicory | 4-5 |
| Chinese Cabbage | 3-5 |
| Cilantro | 1-4 |
| Cosmos | 3-5 |
| Cucumber | 3-6 |
| Dill | 1-4 |
| Dry Corn | 5-10 |
| Eggplant | 4-5 |
| Fennel | 3-4 |
| Hairy Vetch | 5 |
| Kale | 3-5 |
| Leeks | 2-3 |
| Lettuce | 1-6 |
| Marigold | 2-5 |
| Melon | 3-6 |

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Mustard Greens | 4 |
| Nasturtium | 3-7 |
| Nigella | 3-5 |
| Okra | 2-3 |
| Onions | 1-2 |
| Parsley | 1-4 |
| Parsnip | 1-3 |
| Peas | 2-4 |
| Peppers | 2-5 |
| Poppy | 2-4 |
| Pumpkins | 4-6 |
| Radish | 4-5 |
| Rye | 1-3 |
| Spinach | 1-5 |
| Squash | 3-6 |
| Sunflowers | 3-5 |
| Swiss Chard | 2-5 |
| Sweet Corn | 2-3 |
| Tomato | 3-7 |
| Watermelon | 4-5 |
| Zinnia | 2-5 |

[Johnny's Seed Storage Guide](#) was used as a resource to compile data into this table.