

Seed Library of Galiano Society

2017-2018 in Review

Colleen Doty

Why do we care about seeds?

- Without seed we have no food.
- 9 out of every 10 bites of food begin with the planting of a seed.
- Climate change, bringing weather extremes and pest pressures, is creating constant challenges to our ability to grow food reliably.
- Plant diversity is a valuable resource for adapting to change.
- Globally, we have lost 75% of agricultural biodiversity in the last 100 years.
- 75% of the world's food is derived from only 12 plant and 5 animal species.
- We are also losing economic diversity. Due to corporate consolidation, 3 companies now control 53% of the global commercial seed market. The top 10 seed companies account for 75%.

SLOG Society

Background

- ▶ Our roots were with the Food Program, when, in 2015, Dan Jason, who was leading a seminar on seed saving, provided the Galiano community with a generous gift of a starter seed collection.
- ▶ A steering committee comprised of a broad range of community members, was formed to organize a seed library. The general consensus was that a seed library, once established, would eventually become its own entity.
- ▶ In August 2017, the Seed Library of Galiano became its own society.
- ▶ In 2017, we received a grant from the Capital Regional District to organize Seedy Saturday events, and to pay for basic supplies such as envelopes, labels, and paper.



Mission Statement

- ▶ “To preserve and loan organically grown, non-GMO, open-pollinated, locally successful and genetically diverse seed varieties to the Galiano community;
- ▶ To provide educational opportunities and information to the Galiano community on growing and saving seed.”



Physical Organization of the Collection

- ▶ SLOG's Seed Inventory is divided into three categories of seeds:
 1. General Collection (40% seeds)
 - available for all members to borrow and *hopefully* return
 2. Designated Grower (40% seeds)
 - growers who have been approached/volunteered to grow specific varieties, as a way of maintaining seed integrity
 3. Reserve Collection (20%) - Seed Bank concept, preservation
 - ▶ - South End: Community Library Collection
 - ▶ - North End Collection



Native Seeds



We have a small collection of native seeds that are organized differently and supplied by the Galiano Conservancy Association.

Seed Crop Record

SEED LIBRARY of GALIANO CROP RECORD, 2017

Common Name: (e.g. Bean, Pea)	Grower Name:	Code
Botanical Name:		
Variety: (e.g. Black Turtle, Bush)		
Year Seed Grown and Collected for you the borrower (not by you):		

SEED SOURCE

Where did the seed last come from? Who held the seed before you planted it?
(eg: seed company, SLOG, family heirloom, friend, your own saved seed)

If From Seed Library Stock - Year Borrowed from Library:
How long have you been growing this seed at the current location? Other locations?

GROWING INFORMATION

Date first planted:
Approx # of Seeds Planted:
Approx. Germination Rate (%):
Did you try growing the seeds multiple times? If so, how many times?

If you transplanted your seedlings, what date (s) did you transplant?

Number of Plants Grown:
Productivity - (Circle): Low Moderate Vigorous

Location on Property (Circle all that apply): Outdoors Greenhouse Cloche

Number of Days Seed to Food:
Number of Days Seed to Seed: Date Ready to Eat (Even Small):

Date Seed Harvested:
At time of harvest, where the plants grown in pots or in the ground?

RESILIENCE: Did your plants encounter any problems? Please circle all that apply.

Blight	Mildew	Heat Stress	Scorching	Over-watering	Root Rot	Neglect
Drought	Lack of Water	Failure to Thrive for Unknown Reason				Other
Pests: rodents, birds, wood-bugs/pill bugs/ caterpillars, wire worms, cabbage moths, beetles						Other

Would you grow this again?
Other relevant information (flavour, ease of threshing, etc):

- ▶ Cindy Conner’s book, “Seed Libraries and Other Means of Keeping Seeds in the Hands of the People” was an invaluable resource.
- ▶ Every seed packet lent out is accompanied by a Seed Crop Record.
- ▶ We’ve also developed an online questionnaire option for borrowers to fill out as an alternative to the paper copy.

Membership

- ▶ We charge a lifetime membership fee of \$10 per household; no one is turned away.
- ▶ Members may borrow as many seeds as they wish.
- ▶ We currently have 86 household memberships belonging to the Seed Library of Galiano.



Some stats

- ▶ SLOG has 86 member households.
- ▶ We have 91 varieties of edible or medicinal seeds in our inventory.
- ▶ Since 2017, 47 members have borrowed 233 seed packets.
- ▶ In 2017, we began tracking every seed package in our inventory; we have packaged at least 1133 seed packets.
- ▶ We have a return rate of about 20%.
- ▶ Our most popular seeds checked out: in first place is the Calvert Pea; in second place is the Giant Hubbard squash, and then, Laurel's Frilly Kale



Highlights from 2017-2018:

Seed Check-out Days: 19 sessions

Seed Intake Days: 6 sessions, plus drop-offs

Seed-saving Workshops: 2

BC Seed Gathering

-Cedana and I, having received a grant from the Bauta Foundation, attended the BC Seed Gathering at Richmond's Kwantlen Polytechnic University. The BC Seed Gathering was an intensive networking and educational conference about the current state of seed saving and BC food security activism.

Galiano's Seedy Saturday

- In January 2018, SLOG hosted a Seedy Saturday with two guest speakers: David Catzel from BC Eco Seed Co-op, who discussed seed breeding, and Rupert Adams, of Kairos Botanicals and Salt Spring Seeds, who reviewed the growing of medicinal herbs for seed.



Seedy Saturday 2018



What do our volunteers do?

- ▶ Manage the inventory: package seeds; lend seeds; cull the inventory for stale-dated seeds; identify low-volume varieties in our collection and follow-up with members
- ▶ Network with other seed lending organizations
- ▶ Organize and plan Seedy Saturdays
- ▶ Fund-raise
- ▶ Plan or lead educational events
- ▶ Our Board ensures we sustain our mission.



Seedy Saturday 2019

A Sneak Peak:

January 26, 2019, Galiano Community Hall

Guest Speakers confirmed so far are *Kristen and James Miskelly*. They own *Saanich Native Plants* and will be discussing native seed-saving and plant propagation.