

INTRODUCTION

CONTENTS Introduction 2 Exchange with other groups 3 Resources, Articles 4 Guidelines 5 Listing 15 Seed Diseases 16 Extracts from our press 18 Aims

Since it started eighteen months ago, it can be fairly said that the Seed Savers' Network has located a greater number of significant seeds than was thought possible at the beginning of this project.

We are aware that this is only a very small part of what is out there. No doubt more people will hear about this seed saving project, and many more varieties that noone has heard of for years and that some people thought extinct will roll in, and be available to everyone at large e.g. Up-to-Date, an old English potato that has a great taste and is excellent baked, potato the way it used to taste; or a deep blue skinned long, floury, even granular, flavoursome spud, that Jill Lenghaus put into the network; a tuber kept in her family for decades and passed on to her.

Thanks for everyone's support and encouragement. It is not time to rest on our laurels but to intensify the search and we have the facilities to computerize the information and seeds list. People have sent us a great deal of seed, too many in fact for us to trial. We started circulating them straight away by sending a small breeding sample when answering mail. In this way we hope to give hard-to-find varieties to seed connoisseurs who in turn can re-offer to many more enthusiasts. We are also offering some of these direct to you in our listing in this issue

Some of the seed savers with whom we have made contact are not just "older" adults but venerable ones and we would like them to know that we deeply appreciate their life-time efforts to save vegetable varieties. When we, more novice at the art of gardening, have managed to keep pure and vigorous a favourite vegetable for several years we feel that something has been achieved. Then we spare a thought for the master gardeners who have been practising this for their entire life: we would like to make a tribute to them by naming after them the heirloom varieties that they have been looking after e.g. Muffet's Beans from the Muffet family; this is a white-seeded climbing french bean that arrived from England with his ancestors in the early 1800's, prolific, up to 12 beans in a pod.

Membership fees and donations have rolled in during the last five months, such that the SSN could pay for the newsletter's printing and have some left over for rent of our one day a week office space until next year, and some for fulfilling our aims - see page 18. These are some of the jobs we have determined for the next six months before the Autumn Bulletin:-

- 1. Sending computerised letters to more associations, groups, churches, botanical gardens, seed companies etc. We are arranging a letterhead and logo.
- 2. A better information sheet, that is much needed one page, decorative to give to people enquiring about the Network
- 3. Writing and printing a manual of seed saving research has already started
- 4. Investigating every lead that we come across to get in touch with anyone that may still keep an heirloom variety.
- 5. Reminding you writing members for articles for the Autumn Bulletin -- do you have a story about a method, an experience, a personality that pertains to seed saving? It can be up to 1,000 words.
- 6. Making press releases. We have a list of all the newspapers in the country. If you hear some important information about seed affairs e.g. plant patenting, please let us know.
- 7. Monitoring the government gazettes that notify intention to patent vegetable plant varieties.
- 8. Sending seeds to aid organizations for troubled areas of the world. We sent seeds to Dr. Congdon in Thursday Island; Bill Mollison instructs teachers of Permaculture worldwide, in

hundreds of destitute villages, the Australian outback included. He reports that in the Deccan of India, there are no vegetable seed companies, there are no plants beyond their staples, rice, dhal, and mustard, and like all people from arid areas, they have zinc deficiency, and in Nepal the villagers have hardly any vegetables. (If anyone could help here, send seed direct to Dr. Venkat c/- Dean of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, Golden Threshold, Hyderabad, India sub tropical to tropical, or to the Institute of Sustainable Agriculture P.O. Box 3033, Kathmandu, Nepal - sub tropical to cold)

This newsletter contains a listing of the vegetable, herb and flower seeds offered by some of our members. At the time of the Autumn Bulletin, we asked forwer but long from ganteners. Next year we shall have to send out a reminder closer to spring. As we 100% back through letters sent to us, we note that several people indicated their intention to make an offer, but as time passed, this was forgotten. The fact that some of the seeds and tubers offered are in limited quantity and so can really be available only to other members making a listing, will preclude some worthy gardeners.

A listing need have no more than one type of seed and still be very valuable e.g. Ron Cousins' Mississippi Watermelon, and if you are a novice, then tomato or bean seeds are easiest to start with

EXCHANGE WITH OTHER GROUPS

Several other groups share some of our aims. We have had a lot of correspondence with groups in America where, it seems, the best and worst in life thrive.

CONTACT GROUPS

Bamboo Network, Glen Esk Rd., Rollands Plains, 2441.

Devoted to informing about, sharing, and researching the useful bamboo, bi-annual booklet

Diggers Garden Co Pty Ltd., 105 Latrobe Parade, Dromana, 3936

Clive Blazey writes "Could you swap catalogues with ours, as I'm sure there are lots of varieties we would like to bring back into ours." Their catalogue is extensive, especially good on old varieties of flowers, and contains many non-hybrid vegetable lines.

Eden Fruits, Alf and Sue Finch and family, M.S. 316, Sandy Creek Road, Gympie, 4570. Organic nursery selling useful plants wholesale: trees, vegetable and herb seeds.

Goodwins Seeds, Bagdad, Tasmania, 7407. Close typed catalogue, with old varieties.

New Gippsland Seed Farm, Box 1, Silvan, 3795. A solid family-owned seed company.

Phoenix Seeds, Association Ltd., P.O. Box 9 Stanley, 7331.

"Gardeners (especially experienced seed producers) who are currently growing organic seed, or are interested in doing so are encouraged to make contact." All non-hybrid seeds.

Small Farms Network, 53 Kissing Point Rd., Dundas, 2117.

Their quarterly has articles of interest on a wide range of topics.

Sovereign Hill Goldmining Township, Ballarat, 3350
Stephen Steinfort is the Garden Supervisor there and
wrote asking if any of our readers had access to varieties
listed in catalogues from the 1850's onwards. He has
created a herb, flower, and vegetable garden there with authentic older varieties.

The Food Justice Centre, P.O. Box 206, Ascot Vale, 3032 Robert Bell campaigned strongly against the P.V.R. legislation

ORGANIC GROUPS

With the beef blokes saying, "Oh yes, but our products are cleaner than the market gardeners'," there must be an upsurge of interest in organic products amongst the consumers.

Brisbane Organic Growers Group

Last we heard they were having to move to a bigger hall. Their seed bank is truly marvellous with new old?, varieties coming in all the time.

Henry Doubleday Research Association, Sahara Farm, Robson Road, Kenthurst, 2154

Organic Growers' Association of W.A., Box 213 Wembley, 6014.
Organic Growers of South Gippsland, R.D. Muniyan 3956.
The National Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Box A366, Sydney South P.O. 2000.
Coordinating a national project for organic standards.
The Organic Growers' Association of N.S.W., P.O. Box 2 Bringelly, 2171.
Willing Workers on Organic Farms, Mt. Murrindal Reserve, W Tree, via Buchan, 3885.
We take apprentice seed savers in our gardens from this organization.

OVERSEAS GROUPS

Seed Savers' Exchange, Rural Route 3, Box 239, Decorah, Iowa, U.S.A.

Our "members are gardeners who are working together to save heirloom and endangered vegetable varieties from extinction." This organization has inspired seed saving groups around the globe

Abundant Life Seed Foundation, Washington, DC, USA

The purposes of this organization are: "to acquire, propogate and preserve the plants and seeds of the native and naturalized flora of the North Pacific Rim with particular emphasis on those species not commercially available." They have a good catalogue, and an excellent booklist.

Native Seeds/ SEARCH, Arizona, U.S.A.

The introduction of their 1987 seedlisting states: "We believe that the traditional crops, and their wild relatives, of the U.S. Southwest and Northwest Mexico are in danger of extinction and deserve to be preserved." They have 75 varieties of corn in this year's list! We have a sheet from the N.S.W. Agricultural Department listing useful Australian species. If anyone is interested, they should write to them, or to us, for a copy.

Akkokeek Foundation, Maryland 20607, U.S.A.
This is America's National Colonial Farm on historic ground, with traditional crops and animal strains as well as the usual historical museum contents.

LCDA International Coalition for Development Action, Apartado 23398, 08080, Barcelona, Spain Publishes a bi-monthly bulletin ... "for those individuals and groups who are active or interested in the campaign for the conservation and free exchange of plant genetic resources, the fight against monopoly control of those resources and the fight against the erosion of genetic diversity."

The Olde Thyme Flower and Herbal Seed Exchange, Route 1, Box 124A, Nebraska City, NE 68410 "We are gardeners who are interested in maintaining varieties of old timey (non-hybrid) flowers and herbs."

Michel Porcher P.O. Box 73 Gisborne, 3437.

A Resource List for organic gardeners and farmers for Victoria, 1984 with update sheet 1985,
An excellent 22 pages of information, names, addresses that will put you onto clean organic matter for the garden, dairy requirements, bookshops, biological pest controls, amongst many other matters of interest for the gardener.

Permaculture Institute Box 1 Tyalgum 2484

Permaculture I and II describe how to set up sustainable systems of agriculture as an alternative to exploitative farming.

We have sent an article to "Simply Living" and to "Network News" and appeared twice in "The Northcoaster", a northern N.S.W. monthly paper; also in the "Australian Bee Journal" July 1987, the May 1987 edition of the International Campaign for Development Action, the Complete Cardener's Buying Guide 1986, The Deep Ecologist newsletter of the Deep Ecology Network and

Gardener's Buying Guide 1986, The Deep Ecologist newsletter of the Deep Ecologist newsletter newsle

GUIDELINES

We would like to welcome all our new members in the Seed Savers' Network. Many of the gardeners we get in touch with are growing extra nutritious and tasty food from their gardens and fruit trees and believe that it keeps them healthy. If you are a young gardener who has been relying on commercially improved and hybrid vegetables and straining to feed your family, we hope that you too will soon be able to grow all you need and more by planting vegetables that are suitable to your area.

In the following listing of seeds available through the Network, there will be some people not too far away from where you live that will fit your bioregion. It would be best to obtain seeds from them first. Others might suit you not because of their location but because that is the variety you are after. You may have to keep them in your garden for a few-years to see how they behave in adverse conditions.

1 HOW TO OBTAIN SEEDS from this listing

LISTED MEMBER TO LISTED MEMBER

Write a letter to another listed member requesting seeds and send

- * a 37 cent stamp for each sample + a SASE for small seeds
- * 2 x 37 cent stamps for larger seeds (beans, peas, corn, okra)
- * 3 x 37 cent stamps for cuttings and tubers and a padded bag.

FROM A LISTED MEMBER TO A NON LISTED MEMBER (i.e. someone not listed below)

A person who takes the time to tend, harvest, dry, clean, package and offer in the newsletter should receive

- * one dollar for each sample of seeds supplied for small seeds
- * one dollar fifty for larger seeds
- * two dollars for potatoes and cuttings, tubers, sets, nuts.

Or any other private arrangement can be made

LIMITED QUANTITY: LISTED MEMBERS ONLY

A gardener may have a small quantity, or very rare seeds, that he or she wants to make available only to people also offering. This will keep their traffic smaller, and a sense of reciprocity is maintained.

- ** LQ means LIMITED QUANTITY available to listed members only **
- 2 NOTES TO THOSE OFFERING in the next newsletter

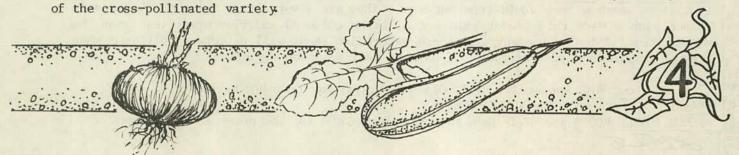
DATE LIMITS FOR TRADING

You may choose to send seeds from spring until a certain date, e.g. end of December, so that you do not have requests all year round

HOW MANY SEEDS TO PACKAGE?

A couple of dozen of fresh seeds is all that is necessary. No need to compare with commercial seed packet size

For corn seeds and sunflowers at least 100 seeds to have a not too restricted genetic picture of the cross-pollinated variety



WEEVILS AS UNWANTED STOWAWAYS Corn seeds, but mainly bean seeds, almost always have little unnoticeable eggs under their seed coat. In a warm seed envelope they will hatch when least expected and the weevils will eat the beans and spread to other seeds. Freezing the seeds for at least 24 hours kills eggs and weevils, but do make sure that they are completely dry before you freeze MARKING SEEDS PACKET Your name and the town in which you live The original source of the seed stock so that we do not end up having duplicates without knowing Month and year of harvest. Any cultivation notes would be helpful. 0 0 Mrs Margaret ADKINS 25 High bury Crescent, Beckenham, 6107. O. . BLUE HUBBARD SQUASH from AMISH LQ - Origin USA Mr. W.A. BERGMANN 25 Investigator Street, Andergrove, Mackay 4740 BEANS:ROMANO, large flat green stringless from Yates (white seed) GOLDEN WAXPOD, flat butter, from Goodwins (splotchy brown seed) REDLANDPIONEER, ovalgreen, fromYates (brown seed). BROWN BEAUTY, oval green, from Yates (brown seed) BUTTER BEAN, gold colour, from Goodwins (black seed) DOUBLE PRINCESS, good quality green bush, from Broersens (white seed) PURPLE MIXED, large green, from Goodwins (purple seed) BORLOTTI TYPE, eaten as green, or dry, from Goodwins (splotchy brown) GOURMETS, green stringless from Goodwins (fawn seed) WHITE SEED MIXED, green bush, from Goodwins (white seed). SMALL BEANS, 3-4" long from Goodwins (white seed). These are only available in LIMITED QUANTITIES (LQ) TOMATOES: OXHEART, large cooking, EARLY JEWEL, small yellow egg shaped, CUCUMBERS: WEST INDIAN GHERKIN, (Cucumis anguria) Trailing annual with slender hairy stems, quite edible. Also Available: DOG EAR LETTUCE, CHINESE SPINACH, and Limited Quantities of MALTESE and GOLDEN CUCUMBER As well, 10 varieties of SWEET POTATOES (Remember to send \$200 to cover postage costs Jeff BILLING 19 Miller Street, Alphington, 3078 0 LEBANESE CUCUMBER matures in 80 days 0 0. YELLOW BUTTON SQUASH Cucur bita pepo matures in 70 days RED COS LETTUCE matures in 56 days Sue BINGHAM Box 211, Nimbin, 2480 CELTUCE Asparagus lettuce from Seed Savers' hardy in the extreme wet ROSELLA from Yates MULLEIN a herb that is good for chest complaints. Ron COUSINS c/o P.O. Rosewood, Qld 4340 MISSISSIPI WATERMELON that was given to an old neighbour of mine by an American soldier in 1941 to see how they would grow out here. They are a very large melon, dark green in colour with a very thin tender skin and a better coloured and flavoured flesh than the modern ones. I don't know why, but these watermelon seeds will not cross pollinate when grown alongside modern varieties I have as well seeds of the PIE MELON Dr. Ione FETT Peppermint Hill, Olsen Road, Nar Nar Goon North, 3812 BEANS: BLUE LAKE and REDLANDS PIONEER FRENCH SORREL ROOTS and SEED when they set Send \$1.00 for the postage of the roots

Mrs. F.M. DURDIN P.O. Box 336, Port Elliot, SA 5212'

RADISH, RED, round from Yates Grows anywhere Select largest and put a label - stake so as not to pick it. Pull up entire plant or one ripe branch Plant when pods are brown One cracked open reveals brown seeds. Store entire pod.

PUMPKIN, QUEENSLAND BLUE, from Yates

SILVERBEET, FORDHOOK GIANT, from Yates I bought the giant seeds in Elizabeth (SA) in 1958. Can grow up to 2' in length by 7" width of each leaf. As seeds turn brown they strip easily off the stem from bottom to top

COS LETTUCE (Greek) from Yates Tall thin crisp lettuce

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE root vegetable from nurseryman at Adelaide Central Market. Use as a wind breaker. Dig as required when top dies When ordering, please send \$2 in stamps for padded postage bag,

POPPY FLOWERS Sow as a swathe, because transplanting is fiddly. To harvest, tap the brown seed capsule to tell when seeds are ripe and loose Sow spring and autumn

H. ERKEN, The Bamboo Network Glen Esk Road, Rolands Plains, Qld, 2441 OSAKA I have Limited Quantities of this Japanese mustard green - purple leaves, grows easily, beautiful and tasty.

Paula GREEN 828 Lees Road, Venus Bay, Vic 3956 POTATOES: TASMANIAN PINK EYE, PATRONS, PONTIACS, KENNEBECS. These are available in Limited Quantities, to listed members only

Glen HILLS c/o Kin Kin P.O., Qld 4571 I have the following seeds available, all organically grown LETTUCE RED MIGNONETTE, CHINESE, DARWIN, RABBIT EAR. CLARY SAGE, WHITE YARROW, PAK CHOI (Chinese cabbage), DOLICHOS LAB LAB, EDIBLE PODDED SNOW PEAS, POOR MAN'S BEAN, CORIANDER

Ron and Kate LEA c/o P.O., YORKETOWN, S.A. 5576

CORN:BALINESE, very nice flavour if eaten when young Well filled cobs Seeds collected May 87. From Phoenix

MEXICAN, very sweet flavour, large well filled cobs. From Seed Savers: Seeds collected May 87.

RED MAIZE, huge red cobs, but I had very poor germination LO only

EARLY GEM, evenly filled, plump cobs, from Phoenix (seeds collected March '87)

FLAT RED MAIZE, delicious flavour when eaten young, large well filled cobs. Seeds from Phoenix, collected March '87.

CUCURBITS: BALLINI SQUASH, (New Gippsland) Prolific, grapefruit size, dark green with lighter stripes. Super b texture and flavour.

GOLDEN RUFFLES SQUASH, (New Gippsland). Prolific small golden ruffled, excellent texture and flavour.

JARRAHDALE TROMBONE, (Diggers) Well known pumpkin, orange flesh, grey skin, medium size Prolific yield, excellent yield

GOLDEN EAGLE ZUCCHINI, from Seed Savers. Very prolific At one stage I was picking up to 30 small fruits from one plant twice a week Excellent texture and flavour.

TENDER AND TRUE ZUCCHINI, from Seed Savers. Excellent flavour but smaller crop than Golden Eagle Very similar to Lebanese zucchini.

LEBANESE ZUCCHINI, grey green, very prolific, excellent flavour, from Yates, (seeds collected April '87)

BANANA ROCKMELON, lovely large firm oval shaped melon with superb flavour and aroma From Seed Savers (April '87)

AFRICAN HORNED CUCUMBER, fascinating small medium oval shaped melon, hard skinned with pointed horns Delicious tropical flavour when eaten after skin has turned orange Use as passionfruit or kiwi fruit.

BEANS:SCARLET RUNNER, (Diggers) Pink and black seed collected Feb '87. Perennial climber, bright scarlet flowers, superb flavour and long flat beans. Need a cool spot.

CHARD: RAINBOW SWISS, (New Gippsland). Seeds collected Feb '87. Similar to silver beet. Excellent range of colours individually labelled Lovely crisp texture

TOMATOES: BIG MEXICAN, (from Seed Savers', May '87 seeds) Excellent flavour and texture GOLDEN SUNRISE, (from Seed Savers') Superb medium size, turns yellow when ripe Very prolific bearer, lovely texture and flavour.

0.

ò 0. 0

0.

GROSSE LISSE, (from Henderson Home Garden) Well known large red JUBILEE, (from Diggers) Large golden solid flesh, excellent flavour and texture (staking variety) Few seeds available

MEXICAN BEEFSTEAK, (from Seed Savers') Solid flesh, good flavour

MR. STRIPEY, (from Thompson and Morgan, seeds collected April '87) Medium sized red and yellow striped, prolific bearer, staking variety

OXHEART, (Bullocks heart) Very large, soft fleshed, good for cooking. Only few seeds

available.

YELLOW EGG, (from Seed Savers'). Very firm, fine flavour, useful size

EJ(Ted) LYNEHAM, Blueberry Hill, Missabotti via Bowraville, NSW 2449

BEANS: KATJANG PANJANG, I have some seeds available for those interested although not unlimited supply. They are a long cylindrical bean originating in the tropics and are extremely prolific once going. The name means, in Malay, "long bean". Originally brought to W.A. by returning P.O.W. S in 1945. L.Q.

Alexander MACKENZIE, 151 Faulkner Street, Armidale, N.S.W. 2350

BEANS: GRANDAD'S BEAN (Barlotti Red). Harvested March '87. Better used green, but still worthwhile dry, well adapted to the tablelands.

Mrs. Mary MICHAUX, 8 Allambi Street, Ashwood, Vic, 3147. PUMPKIN: from Seed Savers' BLACK PRINCE Over 15 1bs in weight.

Margaret MOULT, P.O. Burring bar, NSW 2483.

LOOFAH: climbing vine, fruits used as sponge when dried.

BEANS: SUB-TROPICAL LIMA.

PURPLE TONGA (Lab lab).

ORGANIC GROWERS of South Gippsland, RSD Meeniyan, Vic, 3956

CHARD: orange, red, purple and yellow. CELERY. BROCCOLI. CARROT: crossed and now stable.

SEVEN YEAR BEANS. PARSLEY. PERPETUAL LETTUCE. ANNUAL CHAMOMILE. PARSNIP. INDIAN MULTI
COLOURED CORN. COLES DWARF BRAOD BEAN; prolific. COS LETTUCE.

Margaret PANTER, Box 166, Clifton Hill, Vic., 3068.

I can offer seeds of both SILVER BEET and ITALIAN PARSLEY. They are both self seeded and yet I am not an experienced methodical seed saver.

D ROTHWELL, 40 Alford Street, Toowoomba, Qld, 4340.

LETTUCE: PIG'S EAR, from a farmer in Atherton Bright green fairly succulent and brittle leaves. Upright growth Pick leaves as needed from outside Seeds collected May '87.

Linde SCHIFFERDECKER, 11 Amaroo Avenue, Figtree, NSW 2525.

Here is a list of my seeds. It is raining (19/8) since 3 days non-stop, and house and garden is a washout! This gave me time to sort out my seeds.

Available in LARGE AMOUNTS:

CUCUMBER: RUSSIAN, very large, good to eat, and for Sweet & Sour pickle

CALLABASSE: BOTTLE GOURD

OKRA: eat small, cook in stew; or grow large and dry for flower arrangement

SPINACH: PERPETUAL, smaller than silverbeet Pick young.

MELON: CHINESE WINTER, use in soups, stews etc

TAGETES: (Marigolds) against nematodes, cockroaches etc

Available in MEDIUM AMOUNTS:

PARSNIP:

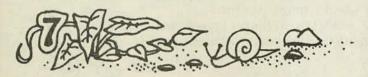
MELON: INDIAN COBRA, flesh dry, but good with honey and ice-cream in fruit salad Available in SMALL AMOUNTS (to listed members only):

CAPSICUM: BLACK, great colour variation in your food

YELLOW, as above LQ

MELON: KIWANO or AFRICAN HORNED LQ

TOMATO: CLUNIES FLAT, from Brisbane OGG LQ



LUFFA: BATHROOM SPONGE, eat young, or grow until ready for sponge

These seeds all come out of my garden, but where they come from originally I really cannot remember. Some from friends, or fruit I bought years ago in the shops, etc, but everything has grown at least once or twice in my garden. For next year I will try harder to keep more seeds. I have a bad habit of eating everything first and then realize to keep a few seeds. I hope this will help a bit.

Betty SINGH, Dykes Road, Dollar via Mirboo, Vic. 3871

CHICORY: of Italian origin Winter salad, grows even under wet and cold conditions. Plant very similar to lettuce To harvest, cut and come again

ENDIVE: also of Italian origin. Light green delicate frilly leaves. Growing conditions similar to chicory, cut and come again. When saving seeds, be careful not to allow crossing with other varieties.

PARSNIP: parent seeds obtained many years ago from Phoenix

CARROT: as a bove.

Catherine STAFLEU, c/o P.O. Uki, NSW 2484

LETTUCE: BROWN MIGNONETTE, from Phoenix, (May '87)

PERPETUAL, from last year's newsletter (March '87).

BEANS: BLACK PURPLE, from last year's newsletter. Dwarf, use as dry beans (June '87).

SNAKE BEANS, from an old gardener in central Qld, who grew them for 40 years. Climbing, pods 30 cm, dark brown seeds.

TOMATO: GOLDEN SUNRISE, from Seed Savers: Yellow salad tomatoes, (March '87)

Linda WHITE, 137 Nelson Road, Box Hill, Vic., 3129.

TOMATOES: TINY TIMS, LQ ROMA, YELLOW, tear drop shape, very sweet TOMATO of unknown ancestry producing red round delicious fruit with green stripes halfway from sepal end. Very nice table tomatoes

RADISH: BLACK SPANISH, grows to turnip size, very hot CALENDULA: BEANS: SCARLET RUNNER. SUNFLOWER: Giant seeds CHILLI: LONG MILD

Michel and Jude FANTON, Box 24, Nimbin, 2480

We would like to make the following seeds available to everyone at no cost, to encourage their wider distribution, multiplication and consequent reappearance in later newsletters. 90% of the seeds have been produced in our Tuntable Falls Garden: biologically raised / chemical free / 400 metres in altitude / rainforest creek watered / mulched with lemongrass / companion planted with carpets of lawn chamomile, pennyroyal, yarrow, and mints / in red lateritic clay / with no frost / high summer rainfall (2,000 mm, 80 inches)

please note that ** indicates seed saving tips, and O.S. means original source

LETTUCE: (Lactuca sativa)

**Lettuces are self-pollinated This means that a flower or a plant is self sufficient in fertilizing itself and does not require another plant next to it in order to bear seeds, (like the cabbage family). The lettuce accepts pollen from itself and as soon as the flower appears it is fertilized by itself and very little cross pollination happens. It does happen that insects manage to carry pollen from one variety to another variety if you have the two different varieties flowering at the same time

Lettuces will cross with wild lettuce The agricultural departments recommend 3 metres between different varieties. Stake plants that are slower to bolt and either harvest at random when flowers fluff and seeds are hard, several times in the season, or cut the head off when 3/4 ripe and hang in a paper bag.

(a) ROMAINE TYPE

LAOTIAN, sent by Dot MacNiel of HDRA, Sydney Likely a romaine type LQ

PIG EAR, from Ron Cousins Kept for years LQ

CHINESE, OS: BOGG A very crisp romaine with thick midrib

BROWN LEAF, O.S: Mr. Mac Paul of Proserpine, (Qld) Grew well for us in northern N.S.W. RABBITS EAR, O.S: B.O.G.G., Brisbane. A smallish romaine typical in its long spoon-shaped leaves.

COS VERDI, white seeds from Kath and Ron Lea, S.A. L.Q. (b)HEARTING TYPE

LARGE GREEN, WITH RED TINGES, on outer leaves A little curled O.S. Glen from Kin Kin (Qld)

RED MIGNONETTE, from Glen also



AYR, a smallish crisp head Yates 1947 says: "All-year-round butter head is remarkably tender. Its foliage is light green and folds tightly over the heart, completely blanching them." OS Pix Parkin's uncle in Gosford saved since late 40's.

(c)LOOSE LEAF TYPE

GOLD RUSH, sent by Bruce Hedge Dates from when the Chinese replaced the convicts as hard labourers in 1850. This one was found in Yandroit (Vic), is frost hardy, drought resistant, even self seeds in paddocks. Not bitter if grown slowly. It is a looes leaf type with red tinges, just harvest the outer leaves Sounds ideal for high altitude gardens LQ Mrs. HATCH CURLY LEAF, from Joy Williams, of Billen Cliffs near Nimbin-"just keep plucking leaves till it seeds , stands all conditions, dry, wet and cold" she says LQ TREE, open-leaf oak-leaf type O.S. B.O.G.G., Brisbane.

PERPETUAL, another oak leaf type from Linde Schifferdecker in S.A. White seeds Excellent CELTUCE, (Lactuca sativa var. augustana) A race originating in China Tender leaves eaten in salad and the stem (grows to 3') is peeled, eaten raw / cooked / processed From Jo Lin of

Grafton, N.S.W.

(d)CHICORY (Cichorium endiva)

**Chicory also is self pollinated but it is bi-annual in cool Australia Cover plant over winter, seed second year, stake the best plant

CURLY ENDIVE OF PANCALIERI, excellent mixed with lettuce or on its own with an extra strong dressing From Italian importers in good deli you can find the seeds Last a long time before heading. It is a winter type like most endives.

WILD CHICORY (Cichorium intibus), blond, from France, centre leaf very succulent, nicely bitter Witloof is in this species.

TOMATO: All the tomatoes have been grown last year in our preservation gardens Coming from many sources some carry non-english names (Russian, German, Portugese, Hungarian) Rest assured that the "foreign" sounding ones came quite legally to Australia, from a Hungarian Botanic Gardens and have all been heat and acid treated to knock out any unwanted bacteria.

**Tomatoes are also self pollinated. At a couple of metres apart there should be 99.9% purity. So tomato collectors are many. Even with small gardens it is possible to grow and save seeds - plenty to give to your friends. At over \$6000 a pound of hybrid tomato seeds it

With our tomato garden last year, we had to find plenty of containers to squeeze the pulp into, to allow the seeds to ferment for just a few days to get rid of that gel around the seeds and to control some seed-borne disease

The most difficult part was to avoid mixing seeds at all stages of processing Squeeze the juice (if it is a dry tomato add a very small amount of water so that the seeds are covered) A few days later wipe the surface fungus off and tip them into a strainer Wash them

Dry them on a newspaper sheet.

The next day, file them in envelopes and hang for a week (depending on the ambient humidity) in the shade. Store them labelled with all their characteristics.

You will notice there are some with no characteristics noted. That is because it was so dry here last spring that they did not have a fair trial. So if you are choosing tomatoes how about adopting one of these varieties and trialling it, along with one that has some notes by it?

A few terms :- det / determinate vines produce flowers, fruit indet / indeterminate keep on producing after terminal bud

Abel; det Ace Royal; det red / taste meaty, 8 cm Altajskij urozajnij; tasty Ambition; regular and large Anait Arbanaski; fluted / prolific Aranaylma; yellow flesh Beste von Allen; from BOGG, banana shaped, large / cooking Too warm up here for this one, few seeds. Bielorusskaja. Big plum; indet. meaty / tasty / 75 days. Big Mexican; det long, square, meaty, tasty / cooking Bonner beste; round, early, best taste, says an old German seed catalogue Yield until frost, uniform fruit Bruinama produkt; medium size / round; cool climate Bubjekosoko Budai Bullock's heart; very large, pinkish Carored; 4000 units of beta-carotene per ounce Cherokee; det red / 80 days / good prolific Cherry of pink; indet small pink salad, 70 days Cherry of red; indet small plum salad Clark Aerby; cherry type, very small for us Conqueror; a bio-tech product?



Very uniform Crawput; ind meaty / 8 cm / 80 days <u>Deutscher fleiss</u>; "German active". Potato leaf for cool climate <u>Djon</u> <u>Bur</u> <u>Dokutchaevski</u> lovely taste, great name

Dudain Early Histon; indet. medium / prolific / 65 days. Early Tan; indet. 10 cm, / prolific EAN; from Portugal Early High Crimson Exnresa de semilla; good here Extended bush, smallish Faddy; plum shaped, low bush Filaris; super tiny, round leaves, close to its tomato ancestor in the Andes Foti Fleisch tomate; tasty Garten freunde; good one Golden Sunrise; yellow, round, medium Gnome Graf Zeppelin; tasty / must be an old one Grosse Rote; uniform, round Hell Frucht Hegyeshalmi, Hungarian Holger Suhrs Marke, from Poland Homestead 500 Homestead 61, large Italian Purple, a pink flesh, sometimes violet / extra tasty Kecskemeti 42, oval Kecskemeti Torpe, det dwarf Kisbugaci, was it a very strong small staking bush? Needs growing again Kralowa, very interesting yellow kind, Little Stripey, small red with green stripes, for salads. Lutschis, at harvest time we thought it was the tastiest Small Mackinley, pink tomato to shock friends. Very resistant Has potato leaf shaped leaves to catch maximum sunlight in colder or excessively foggy climates Majak, for a Hungarian friend! Matura, sturdy plant; orange, round, medium fruit A bit floury Mexican Beefsteak, for vegetarian cooking. Dry andfleshy for actually frying in thick slices Extra tasty Prolific 10 cms, 80 days to mature, i.e to the the first fruit after transplanting. Micado Violettror, few seeds, nevertheless available to anyone. It is a classic potato leafed plant with dark fruit Pre 1900. A little late to mature for very short frost free days. Very strong high bush We were too hot, presumably, for its liking, but worth trying Money Maker, rather tasteless, but prolific, maturing in about 75 days. Round fruit, about 10 cms, across Was great for the market gardens in the 1940's Nagykalloi 1 & 2 Nagykatadi 1 & 2 Nanissim Nunheins Ohio 85, for cold climates Ottowa Outdoor Girl, 10 cms, 70 days. Pennheart, large Perfection, in Vilmorin pre 1900 says "an indeterminate variety, perfectly smooth fruit", thick, great for canning and salad Persik Pioneer, a cherry type Plum, Joy William's, a roma type kept for many years, few seeds in store Ponderosa Pink and Red, 2 sorts, bred in America last century. Great used as a stuffed tomato because of its size Porter, pink plum with great taste Prolific Rutgens, from Wal Bergmann in NQld an old tomato adapted to the tropics Sequoya, oblate, red, prolific Solid Flesh, from B.O.G.G., odd shaped, quite large and salmon pink Had a fungal problem causing the fruit to rot from beneath, fermenting the seeds, specially early in the season. So grow this one in isolation, maybe Otherwize ok Traveller, pink flesh, large, prolific Ural Altaic, large, flat, very fluted Urbana, red oblate, long bearer Yellow, little, from Jo Connelly Yellow Pear, ever popular, there are many strains of them, ours is a commercial one

BEANS:-

**Beans self pollinate before the flower opens, so it is very rare when they cross - a row in between two varieties is ample to keep them uncrossed, and this also helps avoid mixing similar coloured seeds at harvest time.

In wet climates, harvest whenever the pods are dry, otherwise pull the plant up when the bush dies. Dry well for one month, freeze 2 days to kill weevil eggs under seed coat. Store in jars in wet climates and in cloth bags in dry Australia All the species in the following groups will not cross - i.e those in (a) will not cross with (b), (c), (d) etc.

All of these zebras are available in Limited Quantities only.

L Zebra, a climber, Molly's OS Phoenix Seed Co Use as a green bean

2 Zebra, OS BOGG Has a rather darker brown seed

3 Zebra, OS Mrs O'Brien in Proserpine, Qld, a rather reddish type; she has had it for many years

4 Half Runner Black Seed, O.S. saved for many years by Myrtle Charteris in Brisbane Grows

winter also Small pods, prolific enough to use as a black bean

(b) Snake or Yard Long Bean (Vigna sinensis sesquipedalis)

L Black Seed Climber, from Lightning Ridge, very prolific 2 Giant Black Seed, larger than previous, with red speckles and flat pod More tropical, more stringy 3 Brown Seed Climber, from Jo Lin, a family heirloom 4 Brown Seed Dwarf, from a Turkish Australian, had it for 5 years here

L Madagascar Bean, given by Nicol in Brisbane A localized climber, lasts for 4/5 years, gives buckets full 2 White Climbing Lima

- 10°

(d) Runner Bean (Ph. coccineus or multiflorus?) Two kinds have crossed, a white and a brown speckled, square seeds, two in a pod. Vigorous, and cross readily with other runners

(e)Bonavista or Seven Year or Hyacinth, Bean (Dolichos spp.)

1 Brown Seed, very large pod from Jean Sauvere 2 Black Seed,

All are climbers and need a strong fence, eaten at the snow pea stage. In Bali they are eaten as green shelled beans. Ripe seeds edible but difficult to digest Different to ordinary cattle lab-lab Many sent us their "7 Year" bean, even from SA This

one from Mrs. O'Brien in Proserpine

(f) Rice Bean (Vigna calcaratus)

An Indian pulse Twining, hairy, highest food value, free of cyanogenes Originated in the tropical part of Himalayas

(g) Four Angled or Katchang botor Winged Bean (Psophocarpus tetragonolobus) Strong twiner, half grown pod eaten, so tender, green seeds very digestible, ripe seeds roasted before eaten Tuberous roots edible raw and cooked Very prolific in tropical areas needs hot weather.

(h) Pigeon Peas (Cajanus spp.)

A perennial bush Dark red, large grey, brown, well-liked in Queensland, we have seen it growing in Newcastle Deep rooted, an excellent dahl(dry pulse)

PEAS(Pisum sativum):-

Heritage OS BOGG, white flower, very dark seed

Blue-flowered QS Grafton, a Chinese family heirloom for over thirty years in Adelaide LQ Snow Pea O.S. Jo Lin LQ

Speckled pod OS BOGG, blue flowers

**We rarely grow good peas here, a lot to learn, so they have to be fairly trialled to do them justice Peas hardly cross even when near one another, but do keep them separate so that they do not intertwine.

CUCURBITACAE FAMILY:-

** Those in (a) will not cross with those in (b), (c), etc, but will with one another eg Golden eagle will cross with a zucchini or a corn marrow but not with a cattle pumpkin Grow one variety of each group and they won't cross unless your near neighbour grows one in the same group at bee path level. Have to hand pollinate if in the suburbs or growing several of each group Not only are cucurbits cross pollinated but they also have male and female flowers. Bees transfer pollen from a male flower to the flower of another variety and then you get the crossing.

Hand pollination is necessary if you have more than one variety in a

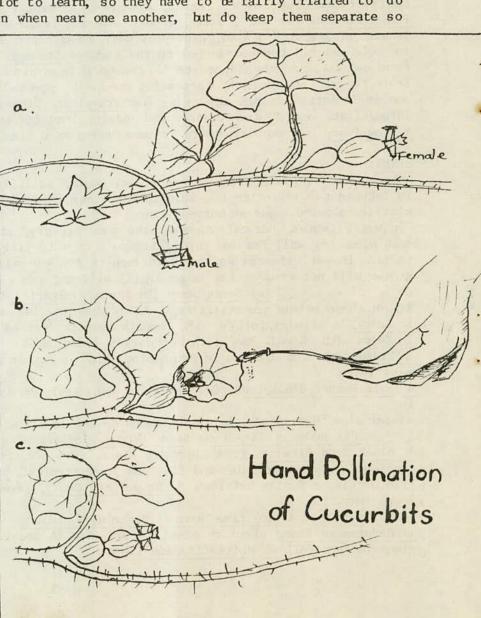
group flowering at once.

a Close off both male and female with tape the night before they will open, to exclude insects. The female has a swollen stem.

Next day pick off the male, rip off its petals and rub the pollen onto the female organs.

c. Close off the female and leave until the flower drops off.





(a)Cucurbita maxima

Very long vines, huge round leaves, stems are hairier than a zucchini, the fruit stem is round and corky, large roundish seeds

Jack of Lantern L. Q.

Cattle Pumpkin two kinds, one from Ron Cousins.

Green Hubbard Squash we have not grown this one

White Beaudesert O. S. B. O. G. G. L.Q.

Black Prince O.S. Jo Connelly, very productive for us, seemed like a relative to Queensland Blue, good keeper.

(b)Cucurbita pepo

Small leaf, often as a bush, prickly stem, which is not round, but four-angled

Triple Treat Pepita O.S. Paula Green and Glen Hill of Gympie region.

Crooked Neck Unwarted golden summer crookneck, small, yellow, delicious

Golden Eagle a bush type squash, great little veg, eaten young

Corn Marrow very warted thick skin, weird looking but tasty if steamed and used halved as a bowl, from Jo Connelly

Lebanese Zucchini Original Two types

Connecticut Field large orange-yellow squash, runner, not good keeper, poor taste

(c)Cucur bita moschata

Stem like pepo, larger leaves. A spreading vine. The butternut is one of this species. Tahitian Squash O.S. Phoenix Seeds in Stanley, Box 9, Tas., 7331 Great enormous trombone type with excellent flesh

Lebanese Marrow looks very much like a gramma. Very good steamed or roasted

Oval Shaped Gramma from H. Heinze Green with orange spots LQ

Trombone Gramma from Pix's uncle

Jacob's Bush Gramma not dry but a sure crop Hardly cultivated

(d) Cucur bita mixta

Something that looks like the green striped cushaw (grown in America back in 1200 AD) Is this squash a c mixta? It can be so frustrating when trying to find the origin It has been around the local craft / produce markets for ages.

(e)Cucumber (Cucumis sativa).

Yellow Richmond River. Given to a Casino farmer in 1945 and still around. Perfect for summer salads with a nice dressing or just with salt like in Thailand Produces a lot of fresh young cukes. Drought resistant and no fungus grabs it. No other commercial cukes compared in production at least in our climate Armenian (Cucumis melo) A melon really, ancient in its cultivation Crosses with melons From a woman in Taree

Edmonson white, from Margaret Adkins in W.A. LIMITED QUANTITY

Greek from Kath and Ron Lea in SA

Russian very old, even ancient sort Large and stays a little prickly. Very firm and nice light colour.

Gherkin the sender is not identified

(f)Gourds (Lageneria sicereria).

Trumpet a gigantic gourd, 2 metres long, seen in Asian store in Australia Eaten young Bottle narrow, L.Q.

Bottle more plump, great to eat if Chinese cooked when young.

Towel similar seeds to the angled luffa from Minara Seeds, Spit Junction, N.S.W. 2088 Spoon Lovely decorative green stripes on yellow.

White a kind of Benincasa with enormous white flowers. Did not bear until too late in the season Needs heat

Wax gourd (Benincassa hispida), from Linde Schiffendecker Round Wax

gourd, the oval kind a favourite Chinese food excellent for the weak stomach Bittergourd (Momordica charantia), short one from Thai origin Bittergourd, similar but 30 cms, long, another heirloom from Jo Lin An irreplacable taste, in many recipes all over Asia Sponge Luffa (Luffa cylindrica) dark seeds.

Sponge Luffa grey seeds, from Jo Lin, not trialled by us.

Angled Luffa (Luffa acutangulata) needs hot weather. "Ketola sagi" in Malay.

(g)Melons (Cucumis melo)

Amish cantaloupe came to us via W.A. Very few seeds, a rarity at a guess Because of their voluntary isolation all American Amish culture is unique Cantaloupe is one of the cultivated plants which has lost nearly all of its old varieties. Teaspoon of seeds available Will cross with other rockies. Cream melon splits when ripe Potato taste, says the sender. We haven't grown this one yet. Table queen rock melon from Jo Connelly.

Banana rock melon made a sensation when it came out in 1883, if it is the same as from Jean Sauvere, a master gardener. Indian cobra melon from productive Myrtle Charteris, an old standard. "Bread fruit". Chinese melon from Thompson and Morgan. Early picking, nice to watch grow. Eat in wok vegies.

** All of these are <u>Cucumis melo</u> Will cross only with their kind. Grow one type at a time, (the neighbours are growing theirs 1 km away) or hand pollinate, as in the diagram, page 12

Champagne watermelon, yellow fleshed Glen Hills says they could be crossed Watermelon soccer ball size, dark green with touch of gold Red flesh Klekley sweet was in 1912 Yates. Prolific, dark green skin, crimson flesh, distinctive flavour, thin rind From Jo Connelly. Could have been crossed at the last growing. If so only slightly. Tom Watson is another which has nearly disappeared. If you have also kept those two, please tell us so we can compare

** Isolate as with all cucur bits. They are harder to hand pollinate as the flowers are small and not all the females are fertile.

MISCELLANEOUS

them side by side to see if ours are true

New Guinea bean (Trichosanthes cucumerina). "Patola" in Sri Lanka. "Chinchiga", "padolangaior", "Paddwalin" in India. Full grown 2 metres, eaten young Korila (Cyclanthera pedata) found high in the Andes and Carribean, cultivated in Nepal. Grows like ivy, tenacious Worth finding its best uses — a sort of empty cucumber. Okra (Hibiscus esculentus) or lady's fingers. Bush grows to 2 metres and produces all summer, from Jean from a Turkish man. Tobacco grows here in winter giving 50 cm. leaves. Tomatillo, ground cherry from L. Schifferdecker. Rosella from R. Cousins.

GREENS

South European spinach from BOGG superb tasting silverbeet, light green and as tender as true spinach. Surely there must be some excellent ones to be discovered in the suburbs, and passed around through seed exchanges and gardening clubs. Purple, red and orange Chard, all from South Gippsland O.G. They will cross. Rainbow chard, a red one. Soshu spinach from Phoenix Seeds Very tender indeed Prickly seeds NZ spinach (tetragona expensa) Native of Australia also Covers the ground well. Used in French cooking in the 1940's. Agreat supplement in hot weather. Shungiku (Chrysanthemum coronarium), from King's herb One of the numerous edible chrysanthemums. Really tender, a winter perfumed green, steamed and raw. Lovely flower afterward, edible too Water spinach (Ung choy) (convolvulus aquatica) Grows dry. In plenty of water in summer gives a terrific spinach which needs only a minute's cooking White kind from a Chinese seed merchant And another one grown from a cutting from a Chinese shop, and gave seeds. Celery early October from S. Gippsland. *** Will cross so isolate in time or space. White Italian Celery. Chinese celery, perfumed, empty stalk Atriplex orthensis, or orach Winter spinach, old time An heirloom from an historical farm Basella alba, small leaf, twining, summer spinach Basella alba, large leaf, mucilaginous, a mild laxative Also called Indian running spinach Amaranthus spp - Greek from Brisbane, red tinged decorative spinach Green Red from Minara Seeds Co Has large leaves, picked when young Seen in Chinatown *** will cross so have one variety only, or bag it Black seed, large bush. Self seeds easily Eat seedlings. Hibiscus manihot, a spinach of the Pacific resembling okra. Seeds make a succedane of coffee

BRASSICA

Paak tsoy from Kin Kin and naturalised in garden. We feed the poultry with it. Bok Tsoy a Chinese spinach from N. Qld. Shangai paak tsoy. Chinese flat can even grow in cool places. Oil is made of its seeds. Quite decorative. Broccoli green sprouting from O.G. in S. Gippsland. Tientsin cabbage from Minara. Swatow cabbage from Minara. Savoy cabbage saved by Jonathon Sturm of Tas. Big stem tai kai tsoy. Small tai kai tsoy. Pungent hard mustard. Wrapped heart mustard, looks like a lettuce, self seeds, very tasty. Mustard green where stalk is picked. Fat shan, white flowered broccoli from Phoenix.

**All Brassica Oleracae (cabbage, broccoli, kale, collars, caulies etc) will cross with each other. So only one of these is possible, at a time, unless they will flower at different times. It is the same story with Brassica juncea, which is what most of these are

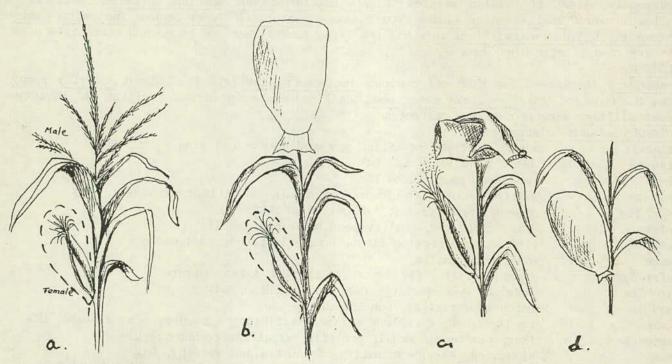
GRAINS

Mexican sweet corn reliable and productive, non hybrid Yellow spanish popcorn, small amount available. Need a couple of gardeners to tend and multiply. Hopi black corn, drought

available Need a couple of gardeners to tend and materpry.

resistant Flour corn originally from Jo Schwartz in Bungendore, N.S.W. Only ask for this one if you are willing to multiply and offer again. All care to be taken at all stages L.Q. Pencil pop corn, multicoloured, 3 months to maturity, pollinates perfectly Red maize Two distinct kinds L.Q. Black pop corn, very short and thick cobs, from Martha Paitson

** The male flower (the tassel) and the female (the ear and the silk) occur on the same plant. They are wind and insect pollinated. Their strength is that they can accept pollen from corn tassels, but this makes it hard on the seed saver if she wants to grow several varieties at the same time. A very sweet corn can be ruined if a maize is nearby (1 km.) and lose its sweetness, becoming starchy as a result. Pop, sweet, dent and flour corn can all accept pollen from each other and cross. Either grow only one variety at a time or one in early, one in late, or practise hand pollination. This method is time consuming and may be out of the question if you are out working away from home, as it is a day time job. If you are away from other gardens, you can always stagger your sowings of different sorts.



a. & b When the males start shedding pollen, put a paper bag over them. When the female silks appear, put bags over the ears.

c Collect and mix all male pollen that afternoon and pour it on the silks. Repeat this for several days in a row.

d Cover the female each time to prevent pollen of another variety from contaminating it, and keep covered until the silk browns off.

Pick as many cobs as possible when dry (watch rodents and parrots). For genetic characteristics a few cobs won't do Freeze when bone dry for two days to kill weevil's eggs.

Triticale:- Venus Daolin Satu Currency, sampson, won't cross pollinate Rice Starbonnet S 201, won't cross either Some people grew in Australia some of Fukuoka dry rice Has anyone access to it? Black naked barley, looks very primitive Chia (..........) from NQld, in Ravenshoe A native of Arizona used by tribal indians as food in forced walks, being eaten as porridge, raw, just with water - a gift! Elusine coracana), another precolumbian health food Also grown in India Quinoa (Chenopodium quinoa) from Phoenix seeds, a grain from the Andes, to be looked into for wheat allergies. Sold as a breakfast cereal in Bolivia Leaf a spinach, similar to fat hen White seeded amaranth from the Andes. Another one not so tall (hypochondriacus) Amaranth is a grain that was banned by the Spaniards in S America because of its association with human blood as an offering to Incan Gods. Rich in lysene They will cross with each other.

CHILLIES

Perennial chillies, large, not too hot. Cherry chilly, small bush Black prince, black, decorative, edible. Multicoloured, tall bush, showy. Long black, purple leaves, a conversation piece? Short black Laotian, small bush, hot. Bird's eye, large bush, burns. Lantern shaped, West Indian, tasty. Perfumed Trinidad, yellow, smells buttery, and its hotter than the others LQ "White blunt" from Frank Shelly. A capsicum with thick flesh

** Although they are self-pollinated, capsicum and chillies do cross a fair bit. Achilly can contaminate a capsicum easily with a little help from insects. Bag a branch or cage a bush before they flower. Say 100 metres apart, depending where and what

ROOTS

Winter white radish King Myak, japanese LQ Green radish from Tony Belton Short and fat Daikon, white, enormous, tender till late Leaf flat rather than upright Sweet long thin pods with seeds. Raab, a Flemish turnip. LQ Parsnip from Betty Singh Carrots from S. Gippsland QG Local cross stable Kharkov, large eschalote from Pix's uncle LQ

Coriander Chinese parsley Chervil Cone flower Echinacea Florence sweet fennel French parsley, large and tasty Garlic chives Laotian pot herb, small creeper with yellow flower. Motherwort from Ken Alexander Mitsuba (Cryptotaenia japonica) (Japanese parsley). Prezzemelo, giant of Catalan parsley Purple Laotian coleus Russian tarragon, attractive yellow flowers. Small seed coriander from Minara Sweet basil. Sweet fennel Thai mint Vietnamese basil. Tobacco Leaf Plant this has the large leaves that you smoke and attractive pink flowers on a 2 metre high stem.

FLOWERS

Sunflower, black seed for high oil content. Dutchman's pipe from M. Michaux. Shirley poppy from S. Gippsland O.G. Grey flake sweet peas, dark red and grey. Strong smelling old variety. Sweet william, very productive, selfseeds.

POTATOES Solanum tuberosum

Atlantic round, spotted, prolific, new variety for crisping

Bismark blue, from Victoria, LQ
Bison red skin, round, from USA

Coliban bredin Victoria (poor bearer here), excellent mashing. L.Q.

Conchita round, pearlescent, floury, prolific
Delaware long, flattened, quality poor but travels well

Desiree pink skin, yellowish flesh, long, flattened, good eating

Exton oval, good quality

Kufri Jyoti long, prolific, for export to the SE Asian markets

Katahdin longish, good quality, used for breeding, LQ

Marijke Dutch long variety, for French-fry use

Monona small, round, excellent crisps, resistant to powdery scab disease, LQ

Netted Gem long, flattened, small, prolific, excellent French-fry use onka elongated, excellent eating, S Australian variety, LQ

Patrones yellow flesh, white skin, square, poor bearer here, good boiling LQ

Red Craigs Royal pink, long, excellent boiler, LQ red skin, round, poor bearer, good eating

Spunta long, flattened, medium prolific, possible French-fry use

Tarrago large, not prolific here, bred in Victoria, released in 1982 for crisping

Tasman pink skin, round, reasonable bearer, good quality

Up to Date very floury, old English variety which we have found listed in 1888

**Potatoes are very specific about their soil. Hunt in your area for the best spuds for you

SEED DISEASES

We believe that exchanging seeds is a good thing for ourselves and future generations. Rare cultivated plants are part of our heritage and they are disappearing. Passing them on to other gardeners is the only safe way to keep them alive (until the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Environment decides preservation gardens and farms with minor breeds of domesticated animals are on the priority list)

You should be aware that there are regulations about the movement of planting material into Australia and also between States. This particularly applies if you live in an area with large agro-chemical activities. Often out breaks of a disease happen on a very large acreage where the industry relies on hybrids, genetically uniform seeds. Remember the corn blight in the corn belt in the United States which wiped out up to 80% of some growing areas because they relied on too narrow a genetic base? (see page 16.)

To be on the safe side, information on the subject can be obtained at offices of all agricultural departments in your State. It varies from time to time

EXTRACTS FROM OUR INCOMING INTERNATIONAL PRESS

We would like to share with you some of the rare and unusual information that is sent to the $S_{\bullet} S_{\bullet} N_{\bullet}$

Chemical companies interest in seeds

The marriage of seed companies with pharmaceutical petrochemical concerns had ominous implications for world food production. The U.S. Office of Technological Assessment noted the interest that the agricultural and chemical industry may have in breeding pesticide-resistant rather than pest-resistant plants.

In 1980 the president of Pioneer Hybrid, Thomas Urban, was asked by the New York Times why it was that the multi-national chemical corporations were buying into plant breeding. His answer was "the assumption behind the trend is that the new owners can improve the plant's resistance to the herbicides and the pesticides that the parent company researches, manufactures and sells." It is more than a coincidence that Stauffer Chemicals had a dominant position in the maize pesticide market when it bought out three maize seed companies. Reschold Chemical Company, with a major interest in garden pesticides, bought a large lawn and garden seed company.

LCDA (see above) reports: A Belgian company (Plant Genetic Systems - PGS) announced that it has achieved building resistance to BASTA, a Hoechst herbicide, into different crops. PGS built a bacterial gene that codes for the inactivation of the active ingredient of BASTA, phosphinotricin, into tobacco, tomato and potato plants. The gene comes from a bacteria strain of Biogen SA (a Swiss biotech company), and has the exclusive rights to use the gene in plant biotechnology. The basic idea behind this project, according to PGS, is that it is too costly to produce selective herbicides that kill specific weeds and leave the crops untouched. BASTA is a broad working herbicide that kills all kinds of weeds, and marketed with resistant crops, farmers can use it in any amount without damaging the crop. According to PGS, BASTA rapidly disintegrates in the soil and is an environmentally safe chemical.

In our Autumn Bulletin, we reported the takeover of Yates, Hortico, Barastoc, and Rite-Gro by the Cheetham Group which had previously been a salt and fertiliser manufacturer. That company was taken over by Equity Investments in 1987. We have no information about this company.

Hidden Effects of P.V.R.

Most government and seed trade people argue that only multinationals have the big money to invest in plant breeding. It is only they who can meet the challenge of the future. Plant breeding is now attractive to those compnies that have the infra-structure to market a new variety widely, even internationally.

American Seed Trade Association: 96th annual convention proceedings

Vegetable statistics committee: "This committee will study a list of garden varieties and endeavour to eliminate varieties that have become obsolete or have been supersceded by improved varieties. Because of the limited volume and high cost of production, it is desirable that they be eliminated." This shows how economic pressure can accelerate the disappearance of the tastiest, easiest to cultivate varieties.

Gene Banks

TITE TITE TELEVISION

A number of governments have built gene banks to preserve seeds of crops that are disappearing from the centres of diversity. These centres are isolated places where it took sometimes thousands of years for wild plants to become domesticated. They are often in remote parts of what are now termed Third World countries. Scientific expeditions collect varieties from there and store them in frozen gene banks, thousands of kilometres away from the farmer who nurtures them. The governments of the Third World have been led to believe that these seeds would be secured and freely available for their own use. But the U.S. refused to give back corn variety seed to the Nicaraguans because of political disagreement. Genetic wipeout

Wholesale clearing of forests and amalgamation of small holdings into plantation monocultures in the Third World means these centres of diversity are threatened. Extinction of a certain variety, or land race, does not occur when the last individual dies but prior to that. It occurs when that species or variety has lost the genes necessary for it to evolve and survive. Social disruption such as in Afghanistan, an important centre for varieties of wheat, and "natural" disasters such as the drought in Ethiopia, extremely rich botanically, are causes of genetic wipeout. So is the pushing of new crop varieties with which peasant farmers replace their old ones. In many countries small subsistance farms have been replaced by agri-business for export dollars to pay off the country's debts. Small farmers have become agricultural labourers and large numbers of people have become landless.

Genetic wipeout can also occur in agricultural research stations where a breeder will collect a large number of plants for a project that is looking for viral resistance. When he or she

arrives at the resistant stock, the rest of the collection is thrown away. Several years later when a bacterial problem arises, the whole collection has to be made again.

Purity of stored seed

Samples stored in gene banks at low temperatures must be tested periodically, and grown to reproduce before fertility is lost. Unfortunately seeds grown in laboratory environments will become adapted to conditions which are very different to those from where they came. Valuable genetic traits are lost when that happens.

Reports from the in-vitro baby experiments in Melbourne suggest that human genetic makeup is altered by freezing. It is not to be considered a procedure that simply holds life in limbo

Unity in diversity

When George F. Well published the ethnography, "Corn amongst the indians of the upper Missouri" in 1917, it was possible to identify and describe 104 varieties of maize traditionally grown by the native peoples of the Dakota area. Less than two generations later, a bare handful of these ancient strains remain in existence (although genes from some of the extinct varieties may have been bred into modern cultivars). If you are privileged to see ears of such maize, e.g. the Mandan bride flour corn featured on the cover of this year's Abundant Life Seed Foundation catalogue, it reveals how much has been saved and opens the imagination to how much has been lost. If such a remarkable diversity can be found in one variety (five main themes can be observed, plus variations), then the magnitude of the loss amongst the scores of upper Missouri corns that did not survive from 1917 is truly inestimable. We speak of just one of many regions of the world where ancient races of crops have been driven out of existence by the blind rush towards uniformity.

Plants are like people in their diversity. Take a look at an old variety of corn if you can and contemplate "unity in diversity". Visualize the tale of evolution told by those kernels of old corn and contrast it with the modern myth of plenty written on the uniform ear of hybrid yellow corn.

Usurpation of native seeds

Fukuoka, the author of "One Straw Revolution", related sharing some seeds with a researcher of one of his naturalized rice selected from dozens of generations of native Japanese rice. That seed passed on to an agronomist in China who gave a sample to visiting American plant breeders. Back in America they selfed the variety for generations, selected for certain characteristics, then crossed it with another rice and produced an Fl hybrid. American corporations are now aggressively marketting this rice in Fukuoka's native land.

Peasants and pesticides

Although new varieties are more productive under optimum conditions, the old varieties are more reliable, given the resources available to peasant farmers. This is leaving aside the danger of contamination by herbicides, pesticides and fungicides needed to get those super harvests. Directions for "safe" usage are often beyond the utiliser's understanding. In 1981 Oxfam stated that Third World countries account for 15% of world pesticide consumption, suffered more than 50% of pesticide poisonings and 75% of the resulting deaths.

Genetic vulnerability

Commercial food crops often rely on varieties which are highly bred and very limited in their genetic bases, so that when there is a problem e.g. disease, the whole production of that crop collapses. In 1970, a large proportion of the corn grown in the U.S.A. was based on one single mutant with the Texas cytoplasm. It was used to breed with because the tassel (the male part that gives the pollen necessary to fertilize the ear and so reproduce) was a sterile one. So hybrid seed production could be achieved using the cytoplasm in a male sterile system.

There was a huge corn crop failure simply because these hybrids had no resistance to corn blight.

Dr Garrison Wilkes reported in "Seed Savers' Exchange: The First Ten Years": (Rural Route 3, Box 239, Decorah, Iowa)

A Testimony

"Crops represent a continuity. Any single highly derived variety can be traced back through generations to a founding stock. Tracing it back even further the wild relative can be determined. So that crops have a heritage that goes all the way back to the natural system: 10,000 years for wheat, corn and rice, only 300 for others... I work in a gene bank. We have 1200 accessions of corn and about 8000 are possible to regrow under our conditions, 2,000 are difficult. The rest is the real problem. We have to grow them at 12000 feet in the Andes. That is to say "some varieties are not like all varieties."

Today there is a lot of talk about loss of genetic diversity. Genetic erosion is the technical bind that develops when improved varieties eliminate the resources from which they may well be derived. When high yielding varieties enter an area, farmers drop traditional land races for higher yields. Sometimes if they don't cut mustard they can go back to their



old ones. But in many developing countries the government has a grain subsidy, and farmers can always sell desirable varieties to the government, and so even the pricing policies speed genetic erosion. The farmer has to buy books for his kids to go to school, that costs money and he makes an economic decision. In the countries of the north (a recognized term for the developed nations), we must also protect our heirloom and older varieties dropped by seed companies. In growing them, we are not only taking care of our plant resources but we are also rewarded by better tasting and more nutritious vegies.

Until we have a greater awareness throughout society of the value of the genetic landscape, these heritage seeds are going to rest with the technicians only.

One of the ways I see around that is heritage foods, special heirloom and regional dishes Take the old variety and relate it to an old dish and try to get that fixed into a holiday situation, so that people realize it is part of their heritage. You have a historic kind of dish, it belongs to a certain region and it is based on a genotype that is different to the one bought in a shop. It is a good time to get press coverage and it is a good time to get recognition. Crop selection should focus on the region where you are An old genotype cooked in an epic recipe.

Another way is the very strong ethic that you had your seeds free and you have a human obligation to pass them on free. If a society has this kind of value, we have no trouble. It's when seeds are thought to be owned that we have problems. We have the ability to structure a genotype e.g. create a hybrid, and believe that can be owned, but not the actual base foundation stock (the common stock that you have from the past, for the future). It is this that you have the obligation to pass on. We do teach how to read and write, we do teach the concept zero. We have them from the past. And just as importantly, we got the seeds from the past and we should pass on how to grow them and how to appreciate them."

REQUESTS

A. L. McDonald, Bishop's Creek Road via Lismore, 2480.

"Miss Ethel" vining bean. Small pods, prolific bearer, stringless, mauve flowers.

Jeff Corbett, 69 Corlette Street Cook Hill, 2300. Husked goose berry, 20 years ago Grafton

N Walker, R.M.B. 1911 Gardiners Road, Foster, 3960 Actinidia Polygama ("silvervine") seed, Heimia salicifolia or myrtifolia seed, Humulus lupunus (hops) seed, not cuttings

STOP PRESS

PASS THE WORD

If you work in the media, or have contacts in it, what about writing an article, or putting in a photocopy of some of our material? Contact us for current information.

BIO-REGIONAL EXCHANGES

Most plants really are region specific. It is fine to order in from elsewhere varieties that you dearly want, but do search around your district first.

SEED SAVING WORKSHOP

We are inviting you to our preservation gardens in Tuntable Falls for practical experience in saving seeds of summer crops (corn, cucurbits, tomatoes). Room for camping. Bed space is available. Drive north of Lismore to Nimbin and turn right to Tuntable, following the SSN

signs. Come light, leave car at the car park by the store. The weekend of 5th and 6th of December 1987. Cost: \$20 for fund raising. \$5 pre registraton fee, send to Box 24 Nimbin 2480. Limit: 40 Evening meal provided from our garden.

PERMACULTURE WORKSHOP

Bill Mollison, dynamic and venerable communicator, will conduct workshops in our gardens on home garden design for the sub-tropics, seed collecting, and more February 20th and 21st Cost: \$40, \$10 pre registration fee Limit: 60 Similar arrangements to above apply.

NOTE TO COLLECTORS

There is room in Australia for more specialized gardening clubs. If you are a collector of particular kinds of useful plants, why not start your own specialized club? e.g. a gourd society, or old apple variety scion exchange. We feel that one day we will not have the space to list all the varieties that members have to offer, and in any case listing a thousand bean varieties is wasteful of paper, except for bean connoisseurs. The Seed Savers' Network can then list each society, and their best varieties.

An article on the effects of plant patenting was written by a retired barrister member, but mislaid at printing time We shall include it in the next issue

Betty Singh writes "The Plant Variety Rights Act is no bedtime story - more likely one of "lights out" for the plants of Australia Key sections of the act are on p3... definition of the word "sell"...p4 inclusion of a plant that "originates by natural processes" and plants being a matter of public knowledge...p12 about "conflicting commercial interests is revealing...p22 warning against planting a seed that has been sprouted for food"

AIMS AND INTERESTS

The Seed Savers' Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation through cultivation of old garden varieties which could otherwise very well disappear.

Our aims are:-

1. To find out what traditional plant varieties are in Australia.

- 2 To preserve plant heritage by increasing the quantity of seeds of traditional varieties through members.
- 3. To make and maintain contact with <u>older gardeners</u> who have older— style planting material, and the knowledge of its cultivation
- 4. To put these older gardeners and <u>serious younger gardeners</u> in contact with each other with a network of seed saving growers.
- 5 To be prepared to share our seed stocks with our seed saving neighbours, both near and far.
- 6. To link up with small scale seed companies and share planting material and information with them
- 7. To promote seed saving and home food production amongst the general public through a) the media b) demonstrations of seed saving c) lobbying for regional preservation gardens in botanic gardens, natural history museums and places of historical interest in the countryside and cities.
- & To help prevent practices that inhibit genetic diversity

We are interested in any food plant that has a long bearing period, some hardiness in drought, wet weather, frosts, high nutritional value, is not normally commercially available. It is essential that they are reliable croppers, are open pollinated (i.e. non-hybrid), and can be grown without chemicals.

MEMBERSHIP AND MONIES

For long term realization of our project we accept donations of \$300 for a Foundation Membership (Life membership). This size of donation we are investing in an ethical investment fund, (this is a way of making sure your money is only used to finance projects that you approve of).

The interest will see that this project is long-lived

Life Members

- 1. Bill Mollison
- 2. Sally Smith
- 3. Neil Walker

Donations of \$100 or more give you an <u>Associate Membership</u> and are used to pay office rent, the hire of the computer, office paraphernalia, seed envelopes, media campaigns.

Associate Members 1. Julian Bamping

2. Andrew Jeeves

Annual Membership is still \$5 and this year's have paid for printing and postage of this newsletter and the Autumn Bulletin. We have decided to include in the Bulletin seeds, tubers, and cuttings suitable for winter planting along with the anecdotes and articles sent in by you members.

Deadline 29th February 1988. \$2 for old age pensioners.

This year's Bulletin contained articles on tomatoes, corn, potatoes overseas aid, bioregional gardens, native species and seed saving techniques for the major vegetables. There are a hundred copies left out of the 900 we printed so the first 100 new members can have a copy.

MEMBERSHIP IS ANNUAL AND DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR If we have not received your membership by the time we send out the Bulletin, we shall send a reminder.

Below are some examples of what your donation generates:

\$3,000 a part time secretary/ computer operator for 300 hours p.a.

\$30,000 long-term lease of land in different climatic regions for bioregional seed producing and teaching gardens.

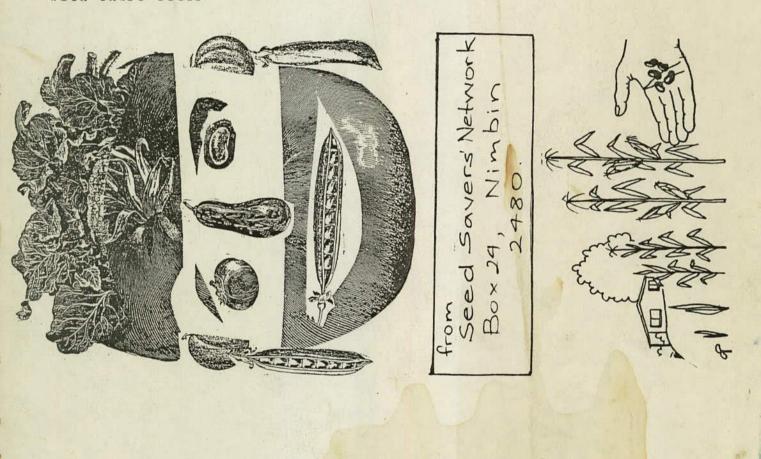
\$300,000a thousand teaching gardens in schools that have teachers willing to take on the project. Priority areas: a boriginal settlements and industrial towns, salary of a teacher/librarian to coordinate the compilation of information kits, the inauguration of courses, and gathering feedback

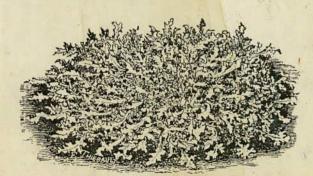
Jude Janton Michel Fanton
9 Sept Michel Fanton

18

DONATIONS NEEDED FO.

- 1. Education courses, in gardens, including in schools, on practical food production and clean eating. These should be run in the open air.
- 2. Setting up bio-regional gardens- renting land for preservation gardens as live gene banks.
- 3. A <u>media</u> <u>campaign</u> on seed issues (see pages 15, 16, and 17 within), promoting awareness of seed saving, for self-reliance.
- 4. Defining specific areas where the climate/soil corresponds to an area in the Third World where seeds are needed (see '87 Autumn Bulletin, and page 17 within); and funding intensive seed production of reliable open-pollinated old varieties for Africans, Australasians, South Americans, and Pacific Islanders.
- 5. Translating into many languages cultural information, seed saving techniques, and warnings about poisonous agricultural aids, to send away with those seeds.





Chicorée frisée de Picpus.