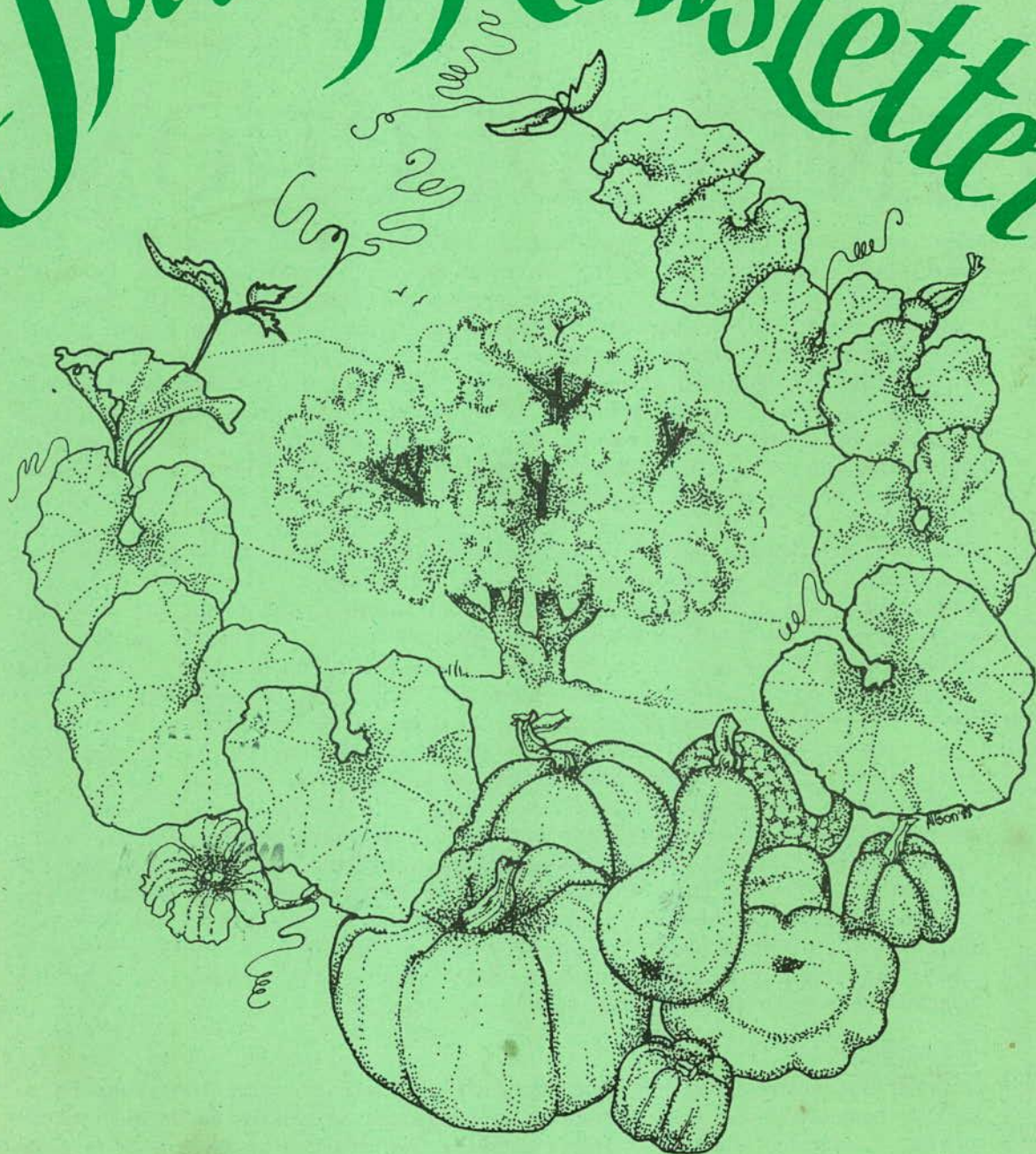


NO.5

'88  
August

# Spring Newsletter



**The Seed Savers' Network**

PO Box 24 NIMBIN NSW 2480



<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	1	<u>SEED AID</u>	20
<u>SEED SAVING NOTES</u>	2	A Report from Bill Mollison	
How to maintain the living chain		<u>VIDEO</u> update	20
Interim <u>VACANCY</u> at The SSN	6	<u>FAREWELL</u> to members passed on	21
<u>REQUESTS</u> classified by type	7	<u>SEED CONTACTS</u>	21
For what seeds are people looking?		A short list of seed sources	
<u>SEED FOR GROWERS</u> to be multiplied	10	<u>PLANT VARIETY RIGHTS</u>	22
extracted from our accessions list		what is officially said	
<u>OFFERS</u> what the members offer	12	<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	22
classified into states, the spring listing		<u>FOR COLLECTORS</u> a - d of supplement	
		variability, isolation for purity	

# INTRODUCTION

The concept of preserving traditional varieties of cultivated plants, not available commercially, is by no means new. A conscious effort is being made to save thousands of rare and endangered vegetables, fruit trees and ornamental and useful species in numerous preservation gardens right through North America and Europe. Organizations such as The Seed Savers' Exchange in the U.S. the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens in the U.K., and le Bureau des Ressources Genetiques in France have coordinated preservation programmes in their countries. There are even societies devoted to saving endangered breeds of domesticated animals: something yet to be done in Australia.

The kind of plants we are looking at have been kept by very tenacious gardeners. They are robust, tasty, well-adapted to the local climatic conditions, and suit the needs of the home gardener and small farmer. They have survived the test of time. They are not kept in a sterile frozen seed bank from which germ plasm is disseminated only to breeders. They pass freely between those members who caretake them. In the same way The Seed Savers' Network is a practical project for looking after our genetic resources at the grass roots level - in situ conservation. It's practical and safe. It's in our hands and in our gardens.

At a time when large corporations are taking over seed businesses, we cannot expect large companies buying imported material and selling Australia-wide to take local needs into account, nor to breed for the home gardener who does not spray. A commercial producer of beans for freezing likes the crop to come all at once on low bushes, whereas the home gardener prefers a climbing bean, to conserve space, with successive crops, to ensure a continuous supply in the kitchen.

## SEED MOVEMENT

This organization is not a seed company. It is a preservation trust to be used by gardeners who wish to see their treasured heirlooms saved and multiplied; it is to be used by other gardeners who wish to have a good seed start AND who are willing to caretake, multiply and reoffer (whether directly to our seed bank, or through the spring listing).

MANY THANKS TO ALISON SAMUEL FOR THE ILLUSTRATIONS,



# INTRODUCTION

2

In the past, we at The Seed Savers' have passed on seed from varieties which are plentiful. Most of them have not been returned and that is all right - we all miss the seed harvest sometimes, or find the mice have eaten what has been saved; BUT we have sent out some very rare varieties with no news back about them. Some of the twenty varieties of potatoes that we passed on will come back into the network at a future date as they take a while to propagate. Fortunately, we have kept records of all seed movement, so a follow-up can be done. Just teething problems.

With more media exposure, and a fast growing membership, many older people have identified The Seed Savers' Network as a seed trust and we are receiving seed samples of interest at the rate of about one per day. Some of the packages have very small quantities of seed; many have come out of the blue from members of the public, in some cases with no return address.

Our seed bank has been re-organised by volunteers Nicolette, Aine and Jenny. There are bulk quantities of seed packaged ready to send through the mail or to distribute to local gardeners in need of the good seed. These come mostly from our seed gardens, and from members who donate bulk seed. From here comes seed for Seed Aid. The more seed we receive, the more generous we can be.

There are also stores of all the odd seeds we have collected over the years for filling particular requests; a concern here is maintaining their viability and testing their germination rate.

The most treasured box contains the "accessions" - new arrivals usually, in small quantities, of rare seed, often nurtured in one family for many years, even for over a century. These we will distribute, for multiplication to "good growers", those people who have made a seed offer this year or in the past, or who satisfactorily fill in the form enclosed.

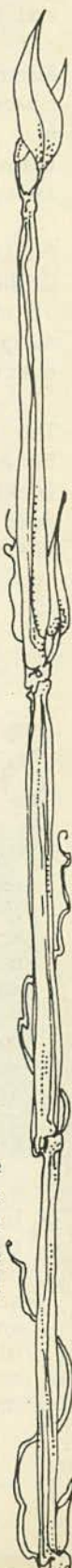
## ACTIVITIES

It was lovely to meet members from the Central West Region of N.S.W. in July at the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days - An agricultural and horticultural weekend where we gave four lectures which, in the words of the secretary, were "an outstanding success and generated an enormous amount of interest." Air fares and accommodation were paid for by the Mudgee committee.

There were over a thousand answers to the "Country Wide" programme and the Update. Lots of seed savers from way back did identify themselves with what was shown on the 8 minute segment and pitched in with their good seed and tubers. To these gardeners: our way of showing appreciation is to organize that they are propagated and become a recognized part of our national heritage. Your seeds are your contribution to the Bicentennial!

The Seed Savers also appeared on the current affairs programme "Hinch at 7" on Channel 7 early August. We heard good reports about it but have not had the opportunity to watch it yet.

AND TO IRENE MACFARLANE FOR THE LETTERING





In May we had a one day seed saving workshop on planning a garden for seed saving. Topics covered were: isolation distances, and successive plantings for maintaining purity; collection and processing of herb, chilli, lettuce, and tomato seeds.

Amongst other things, the Permaculture workshop in July with Bill Mollison covered mulch sources, conservation of rainfall in swales, aquaculture, garden and orchard planning, and forage systems. Watch out for the one hour documentary on ABC television early next year on Bill's work. The producers were featuring laureats of the Right Livelihood award instituted by Thor Heyerdahl.


On the last weekend of October, the 29th and 30th, the first Annual Seed Gathering will take place near Nimbin. There will be guest speakers, a tour of the gardens, a video on Organic Horticulture by Roy Harrison, and a seed swap. Bring your seeds and slides. No fees. Please let us know if you need overnight accommodation. Camping possible.

The seed saving gardens have not carried as many varieties as in the past because we have spent the best of our time in the office. We are still looking for a head gardener to take care of the gardens, plant and save. Seed saving takes constancy, patience and plain hard work sometimes. Do you ever feel like Robert Frost once wrote

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep  
But I have promises to keep  
And miles to go before I sleep."

*Jade and  
Michel Fenton  
August 1988*

## SEED SAVING NOTES



From one generation to the next, the seeds you save form a "living chain". Those seeds will change slowly due to environmental factors e.g. drought, harsher winters, or pests, and the way that you save and select your seeds will determine if those changes are for the better or worse. We must learn how to select, dry and store seeds correctly. When you produce most of your own seeds, you are a long way towards full-cycle gardening.

Hybrids are the result of crossing two inbred, genetically uniform strains and their seed will either be sterile or not come true. They should be avoided for seed saving purposes. All other crops are open-pollinated (non-hybrid). They will come true to type and adapt to your environment if you keep them from crossing.

Some plants are cross pollinating and their pollen can be carried by the wind or insects more than two kilometres away, e.g. corn, sunflowers, all the cucurbits (see below) will have to be either isolated to come true, or hand pollinated. Other plants are self pollinating, and several varieties can be grown in close proximity at the one time e.g. beans, peas, lettuces and tomatoes.

When selecting for seed, always look at the whole plant. For organic gardeners, which most of us are, resistance to disease, pests and fungi is very important. Each individual within a variety may carry some specialized genes for such resistance. So please don't disregard them just because, for example, the fruit is small or the production low. Some other characteristics to select for might include: flavour, size, colour, earliness (quickness to maturity), life in storage, hardiness in certain climatic conditions.



# SEED SAVING NOTES

Select several plants to save seed from, not just the best looking or largest one. This will give your seed a greater genetic diversity giving them a chance to continue their evolution and thus adapt to changing conditions. This is in contrast to genetically uniform hybrids.

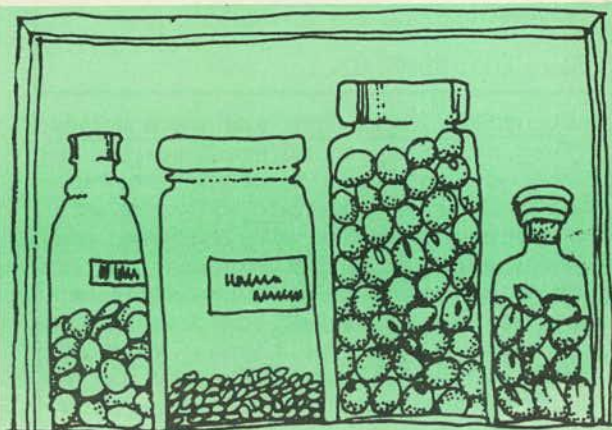
## HARVESTING AND CLEANING THE CROP

No special tools are needed for harvesting or processing seed— just a lot of patience. You can adapt kitchen utensils such as sieves and colanders and collect flat containers for drying seed.

**Harvesting** Generally dry weather is best for harvesting; wait until mid-morning for the dew to evaporate. Some seeds mature at different times, so you need to be vigilant.

**Winnowing** is the process which utilises moving air in order to separate the lighter material such as leaves, pods and hollow seeds from the good, heavier seed. The simplest method of winnowing is to toss the seed above a container (outdoors in a breeze), the good seed falling back into the container, the lighter "rubbish" being carried away on the wind.

**Screening** is the means by which the good seed is separated from other material of similar weight but different size, i.e. seed of other crops, soil, pebbles, twigs, etc. It is helpful to have screens of various meshes, but not necessary to undergo any great expense. Several screen meshes are available from hardware stores, and frames can be built. Now you are ready to store and label your seeds.



## Particular vegetables

**Beans** are self pollinating. This happens before the flower opens so there is rarely any crossing. That is how some gardeners have kept several varieties for decades in an open garden. In the case of Mrs. Ordish of Corryong Vic., one type of bean has been kept in the family for over 150 years.

Just separate two varieties of bean with another vegetable.

Weather permitting, mark several of your selected plants. Let the pods completely dry on the plant. When most of the leaves have fallen off, pull the plants, tag them and hang under cover for final drying. Store when bone dry. Weevil eggs are often present under the seed coat. Freezing for 48 hours will kill both the eggs and the weevils.

**Peas** are self pollinating but cross slightly more easily than beans, so separate by at least five metres (your garden length will do). Follow the methods outlined in the notes on beans above.

**Lettuces** are self pollinating, but will cross with wild prickly lettuce. Two metres between varieties. Choose plants that are slower to bolt and stake them. Either harvest at random when flowers fluff and seeds are hard, several times in the season, or pull the whole plant up when 3/4 ripe and hang in a paper bag to dry.

**Capsicums and chillies** are mainly self-pollinating though insects may cause a slight amount of crossing in varieties planted closer than 250 metres. If growing both sweet and hot capsicums (or more than one variety of either), separate by the length of your garden (or with a tall crop), or you may be in for a hot surprise.

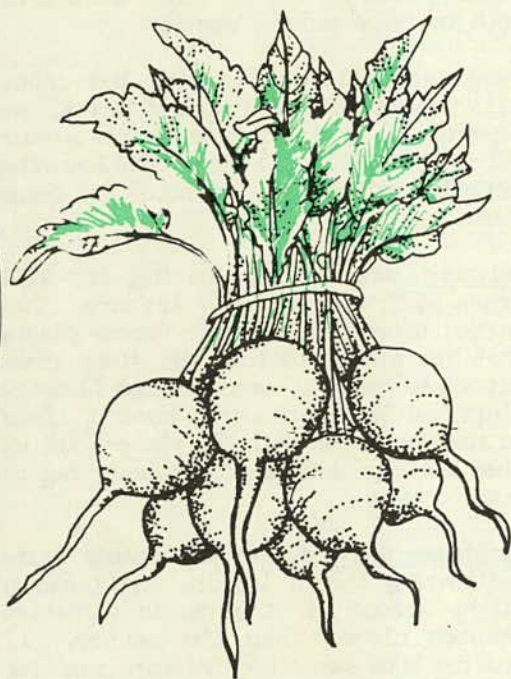
Select several of your largest and best capsicums. Let them ripen on the plant until red and starting to soften, then scrape out the seeds, dry and save.



**BIENNIALS** in cool climates do not produce seeds till the end of their second growing season. All biennials are cross pollinated (except salsify and endive).

**Carrots** In the autumn of the first season select a dozen or more roots which are well formed and true to the variety. It's hard to know the first time you grow them, of course. Leave in the ground covered with mulch if the winter is mild, with a tin if winter is wet, or in the cellar if winters are severe. When spring arrives, replant in a circle or block 30 cm, or 12" apart. The plant will have to be staked as it grows into a majestic tall flowering plant. A few plants should be enough for quantity but not for ensuring a good cross pollination.

**Beets** will cross with swiss chard, so allow 400 metres or quarter of a mile in between. They yield a lot of seeds so you will need friends to plant them! Grow at least 6 roots. Your plants will grow many side branches to make quite a bouquet.



**Turnips, rutabaga, swedes** Some crossing can occur with radishes, mustard and chinese cabbage according to The Seed Savers Exchange literature from U.S.A. The length of the garden will do between them. Southern members do you have any better data or experience on this one?

**Celery and celeriac** Keep 4 to 6 plants for the next planting season. They will grow quite large and again their flower heads look beautiful in the garden. They will cross. You will have an abundance of seeds...Great item for school fetes, fund raising, charities; in little packets (even home made paper packets with varietal name and history).

**Brassica.** All Brassica oleracea (cabbage, broccoli, kale, collards, caulies, etc.) will cross with each other. Therefore only one of these is possible, at a time, unless you are sure they flower at different times. Broccoli unlike biennial members of the cabbage it will produce seeds in the first season. Do not cut the flower head if you are going to save seeds from it.

**Onions and leeks** may cross.

Keep over a dozen plants for seed, the more the greater the chance you will have to pick up some interesting features. It is easy to lose seeds on the ground when ripe. No good to keep seeds from onions which bolt in the first year. Onion seeds are not viable for very long.

**Parsleys** of different sorts will cross.

**Endive and Chicory** are self pollinating. Although it is a biennial, seeds can be kept if they flower the first year (in warmer Australia). Would any members know or ask around about that one?

**Chinese cabbages and spinaches** cross with one another, but not with oleracea. Select 3 of the best plants as they are often self-incompatible. Allow pods to dry on the staked plant, crush and winnow.

Here ends BIENNIALS

**Cucumbers, rockmelons and watermelons**

They all belong to different species so they are not likely to cross with each other. However, gherkins will cross with cucumbers, rockmelons with honeydew, and watermelons with jam melons. All of these are insect pollinated so only keep one variety of each if your intention is to save seeds from them. With all vegetables that cross easily it would be wise to give near-by gardeners a few of





the varieties you are trying to save so that no crossing will occur. The other way round is to hand pollinate as described in previous editions.

Let a few of the early-maturing well-formed fruit become completely ripe (cucumbers will turn yellow, rockmelons will crack at the stem and watermelons will have a deep hollow sound when thumped). Scoop out the seeds, wash gently to remove the pulp (use a sieve) and let them dry completely on the sieve. Dry them in a sunny spot as they can get mildewed, stir them occasionally so that they won't stick. Label carefully and store at a low temperature, low moisture as usual.

Corn is wind-pollinated, so it crosses very easily with any other corn. Any corn: sweet, pop, dent, ornamental, flour will cross easily with another. In order to keep a corn pure you will have to

- a) grow only one variety at a time or
- b) grow it 500 metres from any other corn, or c) hand pollinate (see Spring Newsletter '87).

Select several of the earliest, biggest ears from your best-looking and earliest plants. Keep an eye out for plants that have more than one ear per stalk and any other characteristics you want your next years' crop to have. Let the ears you select ripen on the stalk until the husks are dry; pick the ears, pull the husks back, tie several ears together by

the husks, hang in a dry, well-ventilated place until thoroughly dry. Take kernels from the centre of the cob and from as many cobs as possible to an optimum of 100 ears. Often, weevil eggs hide under the seed coat of the kernel; 48 hours freezing will take care of the problem, but make sure the kernels are bone dry.

The Henry Doubleday Research Association of the Sydney area have passed to the Seed Savers' Network a field corn named "Wollombi", said to have been in the Central West of NSW for over 150 yrs. It is a truly beautiful variety, nearly a land race; It shows that with some care it is possible to keep some insect or wind pollinated crops vigorous, healthy, productive for centuries, contrary to the pessimistic belief that those seeds "run out" if you keep them too long.

Tomatoes are self-pollinating but different varieties should not be grown side by side since there may be a slight amount of insect pollination. Choose the characteristics that you like in a plant and fruit, and allow the tomatoes to ripen on the plant. Squeeze pulp from several fruit into a container, add a little water if it is rather a dry mix. Leave for a few days to ferment; when a white foam appears, rinse and sieve the good seeds out. Dry on a sheet of newspaper for a few days, finish drying in an envelope hanging in a shady spot. Store and label.

There will be a semester vacancy for the directorship of the Seeds Savers', and for gardeners, preferably a couple, from mid March until October '89.

At present, at the office, at least two days a week, there are

- \* a part time executive secretary,
- \* a typist for the bulletin, newsletter and articles, media releases, etc. (thank you Martha for your extra hours and more than reasonable rates),
- \* and two voluntary office workers who put seeds in packets, send out the publications and do the jobs that crop up,
- \* Michel and Jude Fanton,
- \* Julien and Aimee Fanton as willing helpers.

## VACANCY

In the garden/ orchards, there are

- \* basic accommodation
- \* large kitchen & seed gardens
- \* three acres of permaculture orchard
- \* pond, chooks, horse, rabbit

We are hosts in the Willing Workers on Organic Farms scheme, so it is a learning exchange as well.



# REQUESTS

There are many well-remembered plants that are sought after. Sometimes they are no longer available in commercial circulation. Perhaps you may have one of these, or know from where it may be obtained.

The list that follows is a small fraction of the requests that we have received. Generally we have chosen those people that know an exact plant, or have an unusual environment.

Some people asked for "lima beans" or "carrots"; we have not printed these requests. Can anyone please help with the Ironbark pumpkin? Will the Hubbard squashes not do?

PLEASE WRITE DIRECTLY TO THE  
PERSON REQUESTING

## ALPINE PLANTS

Mrs. E.D. Williams, "Greycliffe", RSD 5217 Midland Highway, Breadalbane Tasmania 7258, alpine plants for a high altitude garden

## BEANS AND PEAS — WANTED!

G. M. Kerrison, 277 Weld Street, Beaconsfield, 7270, Painted Lady Runner Beans, pink and white flowers not seen here for years

F.N. Falk, 17 Fairway Street, Para Hills, 5096, any climbing bean varieties, dwarf beans such as Staley Surprise, Gouard Special, Wellington Wonder, Hawkesbury Wonder, Tweed Wonder

D.F. Driver, 117 Baaring Drive, Karana Downs Qld 4306, old-fashioned runner beans

Frank Shelly, Boston Road, Tullera NSW 2480, borlotti beans

Mrs. Susan P. Moore, 28 Melaleuca Drive, Capalaba Qld 4157, Ken Murphy bean and English Runner bean

Mrs. J.J. Titterton, 20 Noosa Road, Eumundi, Qld 4562, Seven Year beans (when dry are white with a dark red 'patch' on one end) and Gem squash (a.k.a. Cricket Ball marrows, can be cooked either green or yellow)

Mrs. M. Davidson, PO Box 57, Stones Corner Qld 4120, a climbing bean grown in the late '30's with large red or tan seed just fitting into a matchbox; bean was about 12 inches long x 1/2 thick x 2 wide green; to cook, cut into 1/8 inch strips, lovely floury taste, one bean fed family of four

Mrs. C. Newton, 51 Ashmore Street, Everton Park, Qld 4053, green lima bean which grows as a creeper

Kenneth C. Wensor, 26 Cooper Street, Currumbundi, Qld 4551, the climbing beans called White Czar or White Monarchy, both perennial, surviving at least seven years, sometimes called seven year beans; last seen in Melbourne twenty years ago; also Muffet beans

W. Jeffrey, 21 Bruce Street, Narooma NSW 2546, Case Knife, a seven year bean, which used to be grown 'down the Coast' about 50 years ago

G. Campbell, Cabbagetree road, Andergrove, Mackay, Qld 4740, a large-seeded cowpea grown in the Darling Downs, Qld, in the late '40's, the mature seeds were shelled like peas and were light brown in colour

Mrs. G. Rosenbrock, PO Box 182, Cottesloe WA 6011, blue perennial sweet pea (*Lathyrus pubescens*), which she has grown but lost while overseas

Edward C. Shaw, 48 Howrah Road, Howrah Tas 7018, blue perennial peas (grows up a trellis and has a number of pea flowers similar to sweet pea and grouped on a stalk)

## CORN

Chris Hodder, PO Box 318, Ayr, Qld 4807, Early Leemann or other corn to suit dry land farming

Lilian Gadd, 1A Campbell Street, Balmain, NSW 2041, white corn (maize)

Joy Steiger, 106 Hunter Street, Lismore NSW 2480, black corn

Mrs. Joan Hammond, Oasis, North Dorrigo NSW 2453, exchange Scarlet Runner bean seed for sweet corn

## FLOWERS

Mrs. J.E. Milne, 5 Blake Street, Cleveland Qld 4163, self-seeding (non-hybrid) Nierembergias

Christy Patton, Old Schoolhouse, Toonumbar, via Kyogle, 2474, pink or mauve datura, any types of bamboo, hibiscus syraluse (pale variation), any white iris, "would give anything to get hold of" wineberry (*rubus phoenicolasius* from Japan), pale blue and white buddleia (can swap purple and yellow) and any more unusual garden plants that would thrive here (no frost/not much summer rain)

## HERBS

Angie and Craig Baliaski, 27 Clement St., Swanbourne 6010, Uva ursi and Buchu



## LETTUCE

T.K. Byrne, 41 Crouch Street, North Mt. Gambier SA 5290, Webbs' Wonderful lettuce, Latura Dwarf Tomatoes (a great family favourite 30 years ago)  
 Bill Hankin, "Wombat Bluff" W-Tree via Buchan, 3885, perpetual lettuce.  
 Edward C. Shaw, 48 Howrah Road, Howrah Tas 7918, Webbs Wonderful lettuce, Iceberg lettuce

## MELONS, PUMPKINS, CUCUMBERS

John Pope, Box 1, Kentucky, 2354, Ironbark pumpkin, good flavour, hard skin, long keeper  
 V.E. Riedy, RSD, Murrindale Vic 3885, Ironbark pumpkin, grown 30 years ago, very hard to cut and sweet to eat  
 C.A. Etchells, 32 Vimiera Road, Eastwood NSW 2122, Ironbark pumpkin  
 Glenn A. Firth, 1/11 Baron Street, Greenslopes Qld 4120, Ironbark pumpkin  
 T.R. Stone, 13 Miller Street, Berwick Vic 3806, Ironbark pumpkin  
 Keith Harris, 30 Gregory Avenue, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153, Hubbard squash and Crook-neck squash  
 Gary L. Frahm, 19 Gilpin Street Shorncliffe, Brisbane Qld 4017, Hubbard squash as grown in the '30's, large, green with very warty skin and needed small axe to cut, excellent eating  
 G. Birrell, 91 Burke Street, Broken Hill NSW 2880, old type of Trombone pumpkin  
 C.A. & M. Church, "Braemore", 1340 Dookie, R.M.B., 3646, iron bark pumpkin and turk's cap  
 J.H. Knevitt, 58 Cummins Lane, Broken Hill, 2880, Trombone pumpkin  
 Margerita Smith, Ibis Springs, RMB 6299, Wadanga Vic 3690, Turks Cap pumpkin  
 E.J. Price, Elsted, Box 85, Heywood Vic 3304, Turks Cap pumpkin  
 J.W.W. Henshaw, 23 Moran Street, Narre Warren Vic 3805, Turks Cap pumpkin  
 Ern Saunders, Belle Vue, Tyrendarra Vic 3285, Turks Cap pumpkin  
 Mr. G. Wright, 127 Cessnock Road, Weston NSW 2326, Marrow (not zucchini)  
 S. Pound, 9 Walker Street, Byron Bay NSW 2481, long white marrow or green marrow (NOT zucchini), grown in Sydney years ago  
 Mick Davis, 74 Mill Street, Mortlake Vic 3272, the old type marrow, not the zucchini-marrow  
 Ann Rehbein, Box 98, Jandowal Qld 4410, cattle pumpkin  
 H. Sephton, 126 Grove Street, Koorringal, Wagga NSW 2650, Queensland Blue, Triamble pumpkin, cucumber, rock melon, old type

Mrs. J. Crowther, PO Box 131, Yeronga Qld 4104, Flesh Fruit melon, from Krumbach District of NSW forty years ago, cream fleshy fruit paler than rockmelon, thin skin, very nice  
 Byrnee Mills, Box 9, Cowell SA 5602, a cucurbit family plant that when 8 inches long was a cucumber, at 12 inches a trombone, at 18 inches a sweet melon, mice ate the last  
 Allen Randle, PO Box 161, South Lismore NSW 2480, California Cream rockmelon, all types watermelons  
 R. McGaw, Box 176, Annerley, 4103, old time dark green long watermelon (without stripes), and the original gramma  
 Gwen Wright, Hunter Springs, via Scone, 2337, "Custard squash which I can't find anywhere, the same shape as the tasteless white one." [B.O.G.G. seed bank, Myrtle or Ron, 34 Heaton St., Rocklea, 4106 may have it - ed]

## POTATOES

Mr. Eric Williams, Lot 52 RMB 5, Pacific Highway, Valla NSW 2448, Robertson potato (red/brown skin, nutty flavour) and Tasmanian Brownell  
 Mrs. W. George, Tempe, MS 947, Gympie Qld 4570, Brownell potatoes  
 Bill Hankin, "Wombat Bluff", W-Tree via Buchan, 3885, blue bismark, desiree, marijke, conchita, beauty of hebron, and the black potato from Tenterfield  
 D.F. Driver, 117 Baaring Drive, Karana Downs Qld 4306, potatoes, especially red-skinned varieties  
 Doug McLaren, Panmure, 3265, bison, desiree, tarrago and tasman. [All these we sent out from the Seed Savers' last year]  
 Janet Wild, Box 39, Leeton, 2705, Pink Fir Apple, pink skinned with creamy yellow flesh, shape is not oval or round but a lumpy and branched tuber.

## ROOT VEGETABLES

F.N. Falk, 17 Fairway Street, Para Hills, 5096, potato onions, Danvers half long 126 carrots  
 Mrs. W. George, Tempe, MS 947, Gympie Qld 4570, non-sweet onions  
 L. Ransom, 4 High Street, Longford Tas 7301, Chinese radishes (size of good-sized carrot, white, very juicy, mild and sweet)  
 John E. Baird, RMB 189, Wallanbah via Gloucester NSW 2422, yellow beetroot  
 R. and A. Helman, RMB 665, Maimuru NSW 2594, garlic seeds





uke and Kyoto McMahon, c - P.O. Terranora, 2486, jinenjo, yamtoimo, & nagaimo - botanical name or description please

Jude & Michel Fanton, Box 105, Nimbin 2480, Andean root crops: Ulluco (*Ullucus tuberosa*), Anu (*Trapaeolum tuberosum*), Purple Arracacha (*Arracacia xanthorrhiza*) Peruvian parsnips; Chinese Artichoke (*Stachys affinis*) from Japan, known in France as Crosnes

#### TOMATOES - WANTED

Douglas Marsden, 48 Aintree Road, Glen Iris, 3146, "Burwood Wonder" tomato  
W. A. Bergmann, 25 Investigator Street, Andergrove, Mackay, 4740, King Humbert tomato

Mr. Eric Williams, Lot 52 RMB 5, Pacific Highway, Valla NSW 2448, Rouge de Marmadetomato

Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Post, 83 Wentworth Drive, Capalaba Qld 4157, Prosperity tomato

CA. Etchells, 32 Vimiera Road, Eastwood NSW 2122, Burpee's Beefsteak tomato, which I grew 50 years ago & Marvane too.

Mrs. Joyce Grace, 29 Hewlett Circuit, Florey ACT 2615, Ponderosa tomato, Red Chief tomato

Bill Hankin, "Wombat Bluff", W-Tree via Buchan, 3885, Deutscher Fleiss, Dudain, Early Histon, Bruinama Produkt, Mackinley. [All these were sent out last year from Seed Savers'. Any seed to return?]

Pam Blamey, 35 Queens Road, Taringa Qld 4068, tomatoes that taste like tomatoes!

R. Everson, 16 St. Luke Street, Willunga SA 5172, Cherry tomato

R.C. Marshall, 36 Waratah St., Seaciff, 5049, "Feaste which was only obtainable from Lasscocks. It has been unobtainable for many years and Lasscocks say they cannot obtain the seed."

Bruce Walker, 4 Kathryn Street, Benalla Vic 3672, Ox Heart tomato of 30 years ago

Mr. B.L. Bowards, 12 Marlborough Street, Rutherford NSW 2320, "Crete tomato, originated on the island of Crete, obtained 10-12 years ago from friend in Kurri Kurri/Weston area of NSW, pink fleshed, very flavoursome, heavy bearer, it has only a few seeds."

Mrs. Stella Johnston, 36 Helen Street, Warilla NSW 2528, Ox Heart tomato

Mrs. J. Crowther, PO Box 131, Yeronga Qld 4104, large yellow tomatoes and large pink tomatoes the size of Bullocks Heart but rounder, grown forty years ago in the Krambach district of NSW

F.N. Falk, 17 Fairway Street, Para Hills, 5096, tomatoes: Break O'Day, Triple Crop (climber, tall) Tatura Dwarf Globe, Eccles Surprise, Pearsons (Devil's Choice)

#### TREES

B. Jamieson, Lot 7, Gwydir Highway, Mt. Ramornie NSW 2460, Tree Lucerne (*Tagasaste* spp)

Jude and Michel Fanton, Box 105, Nimbin, 2480, Paulownia tree seeds

Ms. Janet Wild, Box 39, Leeton, 2705, dessert apple "Russet" brown, rough and cracked skin with flesh that is creamy yellow and crunchy.

#### WHEAT

T.J. and E.F. Lawley, PO Box 89, Tarlee SA 5411, any older varieties of wheat, long-stalked, easy-scatter

#### STRAWBERRIES, PEACHES

Mrs. H. Kemp, 31 Eglinton Street, Moonee Ponds Vic 3039, Climax strawberry, popular 20-30 years ago and best ever tasted

John Dobson, PO Box 101, Darling Heights, Toowoomba Qld 4350, Black Boy peach with black skin and 'blackish' flesh, also Carmen peach with white flesh, pinky white skin, freestone

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Eric Williams, Lot 52 RMB 5, Pacific Highway, Valla NSW 2448, Mitchell grass  
Mrs. R.E. Whittaker, PMB 70, Naracoorte SA 5271, salt tolerant vegetables, flowers, shrubs of all types

F.N. Falk, 17 Fairway Street, Para Hills, 5096, Cauliflower Green Glace (aphid resistant), Chinese Artichoke (*Stachys tuberosa*)

Jude and Michel Fanton, Box 105, Nimbin, 2480, any edible fungus e.g. Chinese padi-straw mushroom (*Volvaria esculenta*), and Japanese pleurote

YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO AN OLDER, OR YOUNGER, RELATIVE COULD BE A FEW  
PACKETS OF YOUR SEEDS OR A MEMBERSHIP OF THE SEED SAVERS'



# SEED FOR GROWERS 10

Because we are in our formative years (it's only two and a half years since we started the collection), we are adjusting to new situations arising.

The interest seed saving has been generating and the amount and quality of seeds that are coming into the network have prompted us to be more meticulous in the way we look after the old time seeds of Australia.

When an old gardener (and some venerables are in their eighties and nineties) makes the effort to send us a couple of dozen seeds of a rare variety that he or she has taken care of for some time, we feel we are compelled to keep the variety going. In sending us seed, the prime motivation of older gardeners is to see that their lifetime efforts are not going to be wasted, but passed on. When the seeds reach us at the Seeds Savers', we enter the information relevant to the item in an accession book, store the seeds in a fridge we have just acquired and start sending them to members we know are experienced enough to take care of their multiplying.

People who are beginners at gardening can try their hand at not so endangered seeds which are offered by members in this Spring issue.

Below, extracted from our accessions book, is a list of seeds that should be multiplied and you will know why when you read it.

Feel free to apply for any of them, but please fill out the form in the centre so that we know we are not sending even a small amount of seed to someone who is not in a suitable situation.

It would be good if even long-time members/ friends fill out this form, not to check your gardening "aptitudes" but to have more information on your place so that we can send you some seeds suitable to your climate.

It would also be good to read or reread the Autumn Bulletins (#s 2 and 4) to make sure that the varieties you will either send back to us or reoffer in the next Spring Newsletter will come true and vigorous (available \$2.50 post-free Box 105, Nimbin, 2480).

## FILL OUT THE BLUE SEED GROWER'S FORM & SEND BACK TO US

**WHEN REQUESTING GIVE THE NUMBER AND NAME**

**SEND NO PAYMENT - JUST POSTAGE COSTS**

001 GERMAN STYLE PICKLING CUCUMBER, like an apple cucumber in taste, grown for many years in Water Vale, SA

002 CHINESE ONION, like a shallot, use tops as chives, has been in one family many years, Ryde, NSW

004 TRIANGLE PUMPKIN, Andergrove, Qld

005 KENTUCKY WONDER BEAN, climbing, in one family for three generations, Blair Athol, SA

007 TOMATO, oval shape, huge fleshy heart, Wadonga, Vic.

009 BUTTER PUMPKIN, green, thick stalk, Roma, Qld

010 LONG SWEET CAPSICUMS, green to yellow to red, Nimbin, NSW

011 RON'S PETUNIAS, kept for 26 years, very tall, white, mauve and pink, Nimbin, NSW

012 GALLIPOLI HEATH SEEDS, brought back by a soldier, Ringwood, Vic.

013 STRINGLESS WHITE BEANS (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), kept in the family for 2 generations, 8" long, Armidale, NSW

015 CLIMBING BEANS, kept 20 years, very tall, green, thick and juicy, Adamstown, NSW

016 GREAT LAKES LETTUCE, OK for arid area, salt tolerant, grows all seasons, handles grey(recycled) water, Pt.Pirie, SA

017 ISRAELI VEGIE, seed similar to NG Bean, eat like squash when skin still soft, looks like a bottle gourd (*Lagenaria siceraria*) Quirindi, NSW

019 WHITE SEEDED ITALIAN CLIMBING BEAN, and CHINESE SNAKE BEANS, "freeze better than all I've tried," Kingsgrove, NSW

020 SCARLET RUNNER BEAN, Rocky Cape, Tas

023 MADAGASCAR BEAN, a Lima, Elands, NSW

024 POOR MAN'S BEAN and 2 SMALL RED RUNNER BEANS, kept for 3 generations in the one family, Narrabri, NSW







- 164 LARGE STRIPED BEAN, kept many yrs, Rocky Cape, Tas.  
 167 WOLLOMBI MAIZE, 150 yrs. in one family, Mudgee, NSW  
 168 WHITE WHEAT, long black hairs on ears, in demand for flower arrangements, Cumnock, NSW  
 169 BLACK WHEAT, long black hairs, Cumnock, NSW  
 171 BUSH BUTTER BEAN, black & white seeds, Beaconsfield, Tas.  
 174 DWARF CANNER BEAN, kept 25 yrs., non-climbing, v. good cropper; 175 "BEST OF ALL" BEANS, annual climbing bean, English variety; 177 LOHREY'S SPECIAL BEAN, 50 yrs in one family, good climbing bean, annual, Rocky Cape, Tas.  
 178 GIANT CORN, Nymboida, NSW  
 183 "LAZY HOUSEWIFE" BEAN, U.S. origin, green, climber to 8', stringless, unique delicate flavour, Sydney, NSW  
 185 PERENNIAL WHEAT, Montana 2, (*Agrotriticum intermedium*) 25 seeds  
 186 RED INDIAN CORN, org. grown, the original Indian corn, Ravenshoe, Qld.  
 187 GIANT NEW GUINEA BEAN, pumpkin-like vine, fruit to 4', best eaten like zucchini at 18" to 2', Ravenshoe, Qld.  
 188 WHITE SILVER QUEEN CORN, org. grown, the original white silver queen corn of South Africa, Ravenshoe, Qld.  
 192 YELLOW TOMATO, acid free, in one family many yrs, Surrey Hills, Vic.  
 196 GERMAN LETTUCE, grown 50 yrs, Casterton, Vic.  
 139 TREE HAZELNUT (*Corylus rostrata*), nuts similar to hazel, temperate to subtropical, Hungary  
 140 THORNTLESS ROSEHIP (*Rosa coriaria*), bush with large berries, rich in vitamin C, Hungary  
 141 MUSCAT MELON, long storing, very sweet, Hungary  
 142 HUSK-FREE PUMPKIN SEED, for seed or oil, flesh for cattle/pig forage, Hungary  
 143 SORBUS DOMESTICA, tree bearing 1 - 1.5 inch pear-shaped fruit similar to medlar, temp. - subtrop., Hungary  
 144 GRAPE, Hungarian variety, resistant to peronospora and powdery mildew, Hungary, seeds to be trialled, selected.  
 145 MINGO BEAN, Hungary  
 025 CARROT, germinates very readily, hairy, Ballarat, Vic.  
 026 GROSSE LISSE TOMATO, soft, juicy, fleshy, superb thin skin, have grown well in all different soils from Melbourne area from 1930s, Frankston, Vic.  
 027 INDIAN CREAM ROCKMELON, large, sweet, originally from a friend in Gattin; one melon weighed about 32lb and won best at the show there, Armerley, Qld  
 028 ZEBRA CLIMBING BEANS, saved for 40 yrs, originally from Germany, Toronto, NSW  
 030 SNAKE BEANS, kept for 40 years by a schoolteacher who grew them all over Qld, hardy, pest-resistant, Morayfield, Qld  
 032 STONE PINE (*Pinus pinea*), Gindalyne, NSW  
 033 YELLOW CUCUMBER, Murwillumbah, NSW  
 034 YUGOSLAVIAN BEANS, speckled, dappled, seven varieties, with no address given  
 036 POLE BEAN, striped seed, eat as a green bean, 25 years in one family Beaconsfield, Tas  
 037 TOMATO "RED COLOSSUS", 1 1/2 lbs. each, Maidstone, Vic.  
 040 TREE DAHLIA, North Dorrigo, NSW  
 041 HOPI INDIAN CORN, Bright, Vic.  
 042 GEORGE'S BEANS, climbing variety, many years in the garden, KEN'S BEANS, dwarf type, Firefly, NSW  
 043 PUMPKIN, kept for 100 years, originally from Ireland, Armidale, NSW  
 045 ROBERT'S PUMPKIN, "really nice", Firefly, NSW  
 050 BLACK BARLEY, originally from Seed Savers; 051 JALAPENO CHILLIES; 052 CALIFORNIAN POPPY, yellow flowers Seed Savers; 053 GOLDEN CELERY, self-blanching; 054 COLUMBINE (*Aquilegia*), mixed, coloured; 055 CORN SALAD, Box Hill, Vic.  
 057 JAPANESE PUMPKIN, "Oishii", brought from Japan, kept 5 years org., edible skin, green & red, beautiful flavour; 058 EUROPEAN PUMPKIN, dk. green, hard, edible skin, lovely flavour, kept 7 yrs. org., Kaleen, NSW  
 059 WHITE SWAN SQUASH, acorn type, running vine; 060 WHITE BEET ALBINO; 061 VINE PEACH MANGOMELON; 062 TOMATO "WHITE BEAUTY", Rara Hills, SA  
 063 GUADA GOURD, Qld.

LOTS MORE AVAILABLE such as: a few dozen varieties of beans of commercial origin, many grains, anyone for a cool climate watermelon with very small seeds, a wild melon from South Africa to be multiplied? The collection of over 80 varieties of tomatoes needs to be grown out again this summer - anyone with spare time? Perennial squash - Chilacayote - fig-leaved gourd (*Cucurbita ficifolia*).

REMEMBER PLEASE STIPULATE THE NUMBER AS WELL AS THE NAME



# FOR COLLECTORS

Extracts from the 1982 Fall Harvest Edition of the Seed Savers Exchange,  
PO Box 70, Decorah, Iowa USA 52101

## CONSERVING VARIABILITY WITHIN CROPS, by Dr. Gary Nabhan

Dr. Salhuana showed slides of the variability in a coloured corn population which, for several years, had been grown from 500 seeds planted per year. Then, for just one year, he reduced the population size to only 100 seeds planted. The next year, he planted 500 seeds from the progeny of those 100, but the genetic variation had been drastically reduced as the result of the one-year, 100-seed bottleneck. You could clearly see the lessened diversity [by the colours missing]. If those seeds were the only ones left to represent that population, it would mean that part of the original variation within that corn collection would be permanently lost.

How seed savers plan and implement their growouts makes a great difference in how much genetic diversity we preserve.

Dr. Eric Roos has worked with this problem for years, attempting to improve coordination between the National Seed Storage Laboratory and its growouts at USDA Regional Stations. Since he is a bean enthusiast, it may be illustrative to use beans as an example of how to follow his guidelines. Often, a collection of beans made from a Mexican market, an Indian farmer or a county fair is quite variable -- four to six colour variants are not uncommon in one batch, and some similar-appearing beans may differ in other traits. For instance, there might be two isogenic lines of white beans -- one, early maturing; the other, late maturing -- that are visually identical in the same batch.

Dr. Roos suggests that people should grow out a sizeable sample of a few collections one year and others the next, rather than an inadequate sample of every collection every year. With better storage conditions, the interval time between growouts can be increased, thereby reducing the number of times a bean population is exposed to potential crop failure or sampling error.

## ISOLATION DISTANCES FOR TOMATOES, by Jeff McCormack, Ph.D.

Most seed saving guides lack specific information about the minimum isolation distances for predominately self-pollinated crops such as tomatoes. Some specific guidelines are needed because frequent natural cross-pollination (NCP) of tomatoes may occur when two or more varieties are grown side by side in a garden under certain conditions. Even a small percentage of NCP over a number of years could eventually cause the loss of one or more characteristics which are unique to a particular open-pollinated variety.

The amount of NCP of tomatoes is a function of a number of variables: (1) wind movement; (2) variety characteristics such as style length; (3) environmental variables affecting style length such as light intensity, day length and carbon-nitrogen ratio; (4) type of bee pollinator and its behaviour on the blossom; (5) isolation distance; and (6) presence of other pollen-producing plants in the area of the seed crop.





Gardeners attempting to preserve old varieties need to be aware of this point because many older varieties generally have longer styles than modern varieties. Most modern varieties have styles equal in length, or shorter than, the anther cone. Our modern varieties were derived originally from wild tomato ancestors (primarily from Ecuador and Peru) which relied on bee pollination to a large degree. As these wild types were transported out of their centre of origin to new geographic areas, the absence of their usual bee pollinators resulted in selection for variants which had shorter styles and an increased capacity for self-fertilization. Although style length is genetically determined, environmental conditions may cause style length to increase, thereby affecting the probability of cross-pollination.

Close interplanting of two tomato varieties may typically produce 2-5% NCP; however, factors such as long style length, frequent visitation of tomato flowers by bees and suitable environmental conditions may produce much higher NCP values...

What does all this mean for gardeners wishing to save their own open-pollinated tomato seed where there is high bee activity on tomato blossoms? Modern tomato varieties (style length equal or less than anther length in most cases) should be separated by a distance of approximately 10 feet to give a high degree of purity. Older varieties may require 20 to 25 foot isolation distance.

Gardeners should not be discouraged from saving their own seed because of a small amount of NCP. A small amount of NCP could eventually improve a variety, but it could just as easily cause the loss of quality of a variety. If you are trying to preserve a variety in its purest form, then isolation distance becomes very important. Although a small amount of NCP may not be a problem one year, its effects may be additive and detrimental to preservation efforts in the long run. The goal is not just to save the variety from year to year but for generations to come.

#### GUIDELINES FOR MAINTAINING PURITY IN PEPPER [CAPSICUM AND CHILLI] VARIETIES, by Jeff McCormack, Ph.D.

Isolation distance recommendations are based on the intended use of the seed. In other words, what degree of purity is sufficient for the intended purpose? For example, for certified seed production, very high purity is required (virtually 100%). Many large commercial growers of pepper seeds isolate sweet bell peppers by 1/4 mile, and hot varieties are isolated from sweet or hot varieties by one mile (1,7). For home gardeners wishing to save their own seed, recommended isolation distances are much smaller. Several seed saving guides have recommended distances ranging from several feet (5) to 50 feet (2) to separation by the length of the garden or as far as practical (2,8). In these cases, the seed is being saved primarily for one's own use or for exchange among a few individuals, not for commercial purposes where there is potential for widespread distribution. In preservation efforts, there is always the potential for widespread dissemination of the seed: therefore a greater attention to seed purity is essential.



#### *Cucumis* species and cultivars:

1. *Cucumis sativus*: cucumber Sutton's Every Day.
2. *Cucumis sativus*: cucumber Taiwan.
3. *Cucumis melo conomon*: oriental pickling melon.
4. *Cucumis melo*: cantaloupe.
5. *Cucumis melo*: Taiwan No. 9.
6. *Cucumis anguria*: West Indian gherkin.



SQUASH AND MELONS  
BY MR F.N. FALK, PARA HILLS, S.A.

SQUASH (CUCURBITA species)

Most squash belong to three different species. Knowing their characteristics will enable you to decide which ones to grow. Cross pollination occurs within a species but does not alter flavour, of course. If you wish to save seed you will have to isolate the species. The easiest identification is the stem. The genus is cucurbita.

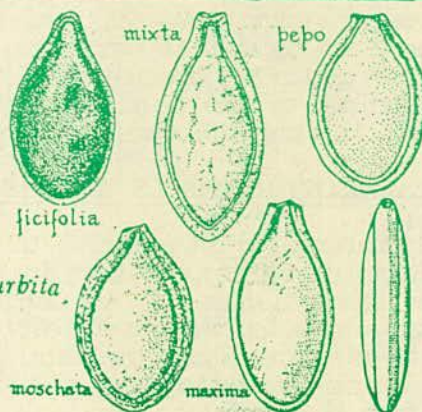
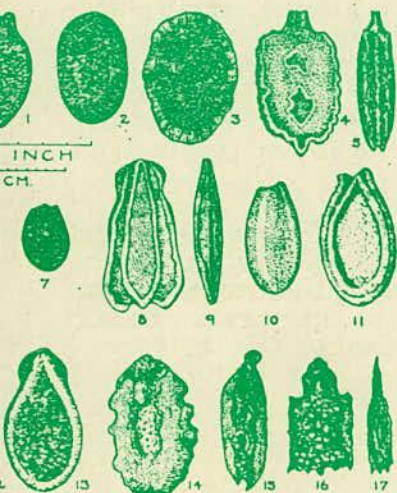
1. Cucurbita maxima: round corky stems, large round leaf, very long vines. Pumpkins Queensland Blue, Baby Blue, Ironbark, Big Max, Black Prince, Buttercup and some Japanese squash fall into this species. They are the sweetest fibre-free squash. Interior colour is deep rather than bright. Most are good keepers with very good eating quality that does not fade in storage.

2. Cucurbita pepo: the stem is hard, plump, roundish, large smooth seed, spiny, rigid and five sided and expands gradually towards the fruit. Often non-vining. Most of the flashy types with stripes and even deep indentations such as Acorn and Delicata are pepo species. When freshly harvested pepo does not require curing. This type can have a delicate flavour with a smooth texture. Interior colour is usually rather pale. Pepo species store well and tolerate lower temperatures remaining sound but the eating quality goes gradually down hill. So in a few months this squash will be bland with more fibres. Summer squash and small gourds, e.g. corn marrow and Yates Novelty Mixed gourds are also pepo. Seeds are small, rough and ridged around outer rim. Do not allow frost to injure squash or pumpkins. Cure in field for ten days by exposure to sun but cover at night.

3. Cucurbita moschata: the stem is slender and hard and five sided and expands abruptly at the fruit. Represented by Butternut. They keep very well, have thick flesh and are rather sweet. They are often slightly fibrous and moist. The seeds are long, narrow, thin, and rough.

ONLY SQUASH VARIETIES WITHIN A SPECIES WILL CROSS WITH ONE ANOTHER  
i.e. QUEENSLAND BLUE PUMPKIN WILL NOT CROSS WITH BUTTERNUT,  
BUT IT WILL WITH BIG MAX

These diagrams come from G.A.C. Herklots "Vegetables in South-East Asia" (Allen and Unwin, London, 1972)



Seeds of Cucurbita

Seeds face and, in six examples, side views to the same scale.

1. *Luffa acutangula*: angled loofah.
- 2, 3. *Luffa cylindrica*: smooth loofah.
- 4, 5. *Momordica charantia*: bitter cucumber.
- 6, 7. *Citrullus lanatus*: water melon. F<sub>1</sub> hybrid cultivar Honey Cream.
- 8, 9. *Lagenaria siceraria*: bottle gourd.
- 10, 11. *Benincasa hispida*: wax gourd. The two types known.
- 12, 13. *Citrullus lanatus*: water-melon.
- 14, 15. *Trichosanthes cucumerina* var. *anguria*: snake gourd.
- 16, 17. *Cyclanthera pedata*.



## MELONS (CUCUMIS MELO)

Rockmelon, canteloupe, musk cassaba, winter melon, honey dew, etc. Much crossing has been done between rockmelons and honey dews. The cultivated forms of *Cucumis melo* are very many and difficult to clearly classify. The modern cultivated forms of melon are supposed to have been derived from the wild types native to Africa-Asia. They were probably introduced into the Mediterranean countries of Europe around the start of the Christian era. Pliny refers to a new form of cucumber called "melopa" by the 16th Century. Many varieties of melon were known to European writers. The melon reached America from the Old World in 1494. In 1922 there were over 400 varieties in catalogues in the United States.

Rockmelons need an alkaline fertile soil (different to watermelon which prefers acid soil of a sandy nature). Unless raised in pots for an early start, do not plant seeds until the soil has warmed up. They need to be well watered till they start fruiting when watering is best reduced, as too much rain or watering when the fruit starts to ripen will spoil the taste of them. Also overhead watering is not recommended as it may lead to fungus troubles such as mildew. Some of the modern hybrids do not seem subject to these problems.

In 1898, 5000 acres of rockmelons were grown by the Rockford Growers Association in the USA. Rocky Ford is an old green fleshed variety which is still available to this day.

After a search of 40 years I have rediscovered Californian Cream melons (see Offers) of a smooth skin, with no netting, salmon pink flesh, really delicious. Also I have recently seen, in an overseas catalogue, "Jenny Lind", an old 1888 melon listed by Burpee (USA) in their 1988 catalogue. It has green flesh with a prominent button underneath the fruit.

Rockmelons thrive best in a warm climate. Approximately 4 months of frost free conditions are required to get good results.

Culture: few fruits have as sweet a taste as fresh garden grown melons. They prefer a rich soil with a pH of 6.0 or higher and a warm north or northeast aspect. Good moisture is important during the early stages of growth and during pollination. Seed may be started indoors or in a glasshouse for 3-4 weeks and transplanted to their garden location later. These can be sown in peat pots, etc. So as not to disturb roots, harden off before you plant outside. Melons can be checked for ripeness by the change of colour of the fruit when the grey green colour turns a buff yellow or when they smell aromatic and the stem pulls off easily from the vine.

## WATERMELONS (CITRULLUS VULGARIS)

The watermelon is a native of Africa. It is normally a dry country plant. David Livingstone, writing in 1857, described it as being very abundant in the Kalahari Desert. All animals of this region seem to enjoy the fruit. The watermelon was taken early to India, as it has a Sanskrit name. It reached China about the tenth century A.D. It has no name in the ancient Greek or Latin languages and was probably not known to these people much before the Christian era.

The watermelon thrives on light sandy soil with liberal moisture during the early life of the vines. In order to develop superior quality fruit the temperatures during fruiting need to be high. They will tolerate more heat than rockmelons. The Citron Preserving Melon belongs to this group. Do not mix together if you save seeds as it is said they will cross five miles.



# OFFERS

12



Frances Durdin writes: Never shall I forget the exhilarating delight of daily watching a banana pumpkin climb a 1 year old nectarine and dangle a tiny bright yellow banana, like a decoration on a Christmas tree. It pulled a branchlet down, stood on end, grew upwards sending the branchlet back into position, ending up erect like a boiled egg - 18 lb. What about the Indian Cobra Melon with its fascinating, ridged, snake-like heads, standing in the 'about-to-strike' position, planted too late this year (start indoors next time). I love snakes! The prettiest flower was the calabasse - white and the shape of whose flowers is so artistic - shades of Arabian nights. The vine grew along a nylon thread zig-zagged up and down between two fence rails. A big surprise too was how the Spanish radish grew and g-r-e-w and GREW; next year I'll taste one. So scrutinize the seed list, send for the unusual, choose seeds from a different climate, experiment and really enjoy these varied plants. Did anybody mention the word work? Gardening's fun, not work.

[A few of us have gone on radio and printed media telling about the wonderful varieties we have discovered; a picture of Frances with her banana pumpkin in a South Australian newspaper certainly helps to make the idea of seed saving more acceptable to the non converted. We do not evaluate the impact by the amount of membership we receive only; there are a large number of people thinking about it. It's only a matter of time until full-cycle gardening becomes every gardener's cup of tea. ed]

W.A. Bergmann of Mackay wrote saying that of the 12 people writing for seeds last year, four did not send enough postage.

PLEASE SEND ADEQUATE PAYMENT AND POSTAGE.

We are cautious with these little details as we would not like to put a strain on members who take the time to offer.

## HOW TO OBTAIN SEEDS FROM THIS LIST

Write a letter requesting seed. Expect 25 viable seeds as a seed stock, (except in the case of corn and sunflowers there should be at least 100 to maintain genetic diversity). Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and payment at these rates:

- \* three 37c stamps for small seeds
- \* four 37c stamps for larger seeds  
e.g. beans, corn
- \* five 37c stamps for tubers, cuttings, etc.

BETWEEN MEMBERS WHO ARE OFFERING BELOW, YOUR OWN ARRANGEMENTS,  
e.g. SWAPS, CAN BE MADE.

"LIMITED QUANTITY" means only available to  
December 1988

ALLAN BRYANT, MUMMULGUM VIA CASINO, 2470  
Chilli: 5", fourth generation from a five  
foot bush. Thin fleshed.  
Popcorn: 6" to 8" long, pops well, has had  
it for 25 generations.

SCOTT CARTER, "LILYFIELD", PO NIMBIN, 2480  
Tomatoes: Traveller, Homestead and Big  
Mexican (Limited Quantity).  
Rabbit's Ear Lettuce;  
Sweet Corn

## *New South Wales*

LYDIA CONNELLY, 27 MURRAY STREET, LISMORE, 2480  
Tomatoes: Clark Aerby; Little Stripey; and  
Lutschis (Limited Quantity).

JILLIAN CRANNY, REES ROAD, VIA DORRIGO, 2453  
(Dorrigo, red basalt, high, 7 mths.)  
Forget-me-nots, one metre high, very fertile  
seeds (Limited Quantity).



BRIAN E. CORLIS, P.O. LIANDILO, 2760

The Russian varieties 1 to 5 and the Egyptian Shamin are in short supply so he is looking for growers to increase the seed stock.

The Greek varieties 6, 7, and 8 are in better supply but he still needs seed producers.

**Rockmelons:** (1) Kolhoznic 593: small, round, smooth skin, orange, speckled dark green, flesh green, sweet, good flavour, wt. approx 600 gms.

(2) Kuvsinila: round, orange yellow with mottled green stripes, wt. 1.5-2.0kg, white flesh, dry, mod. sweet.

(3) Livadija: large, oval, elongated, 2.2kg, orange yellow, speckled dark green, flesh green, sweet.

(4) Rennija: early variety, mat. 60-70 days, oval, smooth skin, speckled yellow-green, 1.2kg, white flesh, mod. sweet.

(5) Salgirska: oval, 1.2kg, orange-yellow speckled skin, flesh creamy-white to pale green, sweet.

(6) Thracian: Casba type, round, 1.5kg, yellow-green with darker green patches, flesh green, sweet.

(7) Argos: elongated, skin wrinkled, dark green, turning brown, flesh pink, sweet.

(8) Zarinthou: large flattened globe, ribbed yellow green, 1.5-2kg, flesh green, sweet.

(9) Shamin: variable size, round to oval, small, 0.5 - 0.8kg, grey green to yellow green skin, flesh deep green, sweet.

M. GIBSON, MANDAH NEWBRIDGE ROAD, GEORGES PLAINS, BATHURST, 2795

(Bathurst, poor/sandy, 28", reg. frost, 1-2 snowfalls)

Tweedia: quaint perennial, clusters of lovely light blue star-shaped flowers, dwarf herbaceous, spear shaped leaves, velvety and olive green; origin: lady at Millthorpe.

KIM GOLLAN, BULGA RD, BOBIN VIA WINGHAM, 2429  
Beans: Purple King

LIISA HOBLER, 9 WARANA AVE, BRAY PARK, MURWILLUMBAH, 2484

Burdock (*Arctium lappa*); Agnus-castus (*Vitex agnus-castus*); Dandelion (*Traxicum officinale*); Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)

Liisa is president of The Northern Rivers Herb Growers and Marketers Association and is offering cuttings of many herbs to local members of The Seed Savers' Network. Phone first: 722 196

TONY INGARFIELD, 'HOMELAND', PO THORA, 2454

Tomatoes: Golden Sunrise: from SSN, numerous smallish golden fruits, long cropping period, handles frequent rain well; Graf Zeppelin and

Little Stripy tomatoes: from SSN, grew and fruited well, but dislike high rainfall;

Banana-shaped tomato: from SSN (origin B.O.G.G.), grew well, large, fairly hard-skinned, good flavour, some end rot in wet.

Mizuma (*Brassica japonica*): from local (Bellingen, NSW) seedsaver, vigorous, no pests or diseases, for salad or cooking, can withstand first snowfall, will not bolt during hot weather, will cross with Chinese Cabbage, a finely dented Asian cabbage (Limited Quantity).

Water Spinach (*Ipomoea aquatica*): from SSN, vigorous creeper, mild taste, needs lots of water.

N.Z. Spinach: from SSN, creeper, needs little care (Limited Quantity).

Bonavista beans (*Dolichos lablab*): from SSN, strong grower, long harvest period, handles long periods of wet, seeds speckled purple when immature, black when mature.

Gramma/Jap squash: apparently stable hybrid with small orange squat fruit.

Balinese corn: well-adapted to North Coast NSW climate, origin Phoenix Seeds.

Chinese Raisin Tree (*Hovenia dulcis*): to 9m, deciduous, yellow leaves in autumn, very sweet fruits, cold hardy, little care.

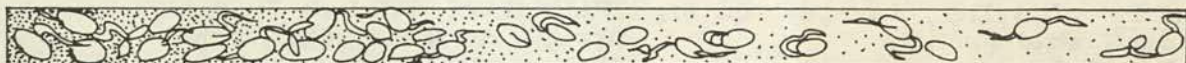
MRS J KISS, 15 BATHURST ST, CONDOBOLIN, 2877  
Jerusalem artichokes: organically grown, 2-3 tubers per person available May/June only.

MRS ELAW, 2 HOBBS ST., KINGSGROVE, 2208  
(Kingsgrove, black loam, enough, many)

Chinese Snake Beans: long and thick, prolific bearers, climbers to over 6'. I have them from a Chinese neighbour who brought them from China 20 years ago. (Limited Quantity)

ALEX MACKENZIE, 151 FAULKNER ST, ARMIDALE, 2350  
(Rainfall 800mm, 65 frosts)

Barlotti (Grandad's Bean): perennial runner bean, variety "Streamline", origin Yates, black and pink coloured beans; Red Indian Corn, origin Phoenix Seeds; Hopi Corn, origin SSN, black. Sugar Snap Peas, origin Yates, climbing to 2m; Blue Pea, origin SSN, (Limited Quantity); Telephone Peas, origin Yates. Oca (*Oxalis tuberosa*): origin New Gippsland Seeds, pink tubers (Limited Quantity).





A.C.T.

JENNIFER WALTERS, 23 COKE ST, DOWNER, 2602  
Country Gentleman Corn: probable origin  
Phoenix Seeds, a non-hybrid wind-pollinated  
sweet corn (Limited Quantity).

J. & S. BANKS, 10 BELTANA ROAD, PIALIGO 2609  
Apply for scion and budwood of old apples :  
more than 30 varieties. Tell your reasons  
for interest; also offers Boswell's Volunteer  
tomato self-seeded for 10 years, more  
tolerant of Canberra's late summer weather  
than most, a little larger than cherry.  
Jonathan and Susan are looking for Adelaide  
Blue potatoes.

GRAHAM THIES, 180 PELHAM ST, TENDERFIELD, 2372  
(Tenderfield, brown loam, 740mm, 180 days)  
Beans: Scarlet Runner, origin Krempins Seeds,  
Armidale; Hyacinth bean  
(Dolichos lablab var. niger) origin Noel  
Thies, Lismore: vigorous climber, flowers  
late and produces right up to first frost.  
Buttercup pumpkin (C. maxima): origin  
Coopers Seeds, NZ., vigorous pumpkin runner,  
small fruit, orange flesh, dark green skin  
with grey stripe, sweet, dry, excellent  
(Limited Quantity).

Black Interlotte potato: large quantity  
smaller sized potatoes, excellent flavour,  
good producer (send self-addressed padded  
postal bag and enough to cover postage and  
payment — Ed.).

IAN THOMPSON, 15 GEORGE WILSON AVE, WEE WAA,  
2388  
Mandarin: fruit to 10cm diam, thick skin,  
good bearer, very old reliable tree with  
seedy fruit.

JOY WILLIAMS, MARTIN ROAD, LARNOCK, 2480  
Lettuces: Celtuce: strong plants producing an  
abundance of large leaves for cutting; A-Y-R  
Lettuce: small hardy lettuce, quick growing  
with smooth green leaves, can sow fairly  
thickly and use very young thinnings, letting  
the rest develop hearts; Mrs Hatch lettuce  
originally from an elderly lady in Melbourne;  
Mignonette lettuce.  
Pepper: long sweet.

MARY JEAN WILLIS, "4D" STATION, QUIRINDI, 2343  
(Quirindi, black, 25", rare frost)  
New Guinea Bean: about 3 ft. long  
Israel vegetable: large climbing vine, frost  
sensitive (a gourd — Ed.).

JOHN MAUCLINE, BOX 603, MULLUMBIMBY, 2482  
(Mullumbimby, clay/ rainforest, high, 365)  
Snake beans, vigorous climbing, with long,  
sweet pods, origin Phoenix seeds (Limited  
Quantity); Purple King climbing bean, purple  
pods, green when cooked, prolific.

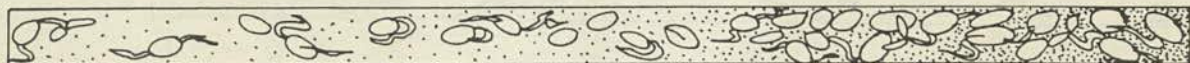
CHRISTY PATTON, OLD SCHOOLHOUSE, TOONUMBAR,  
VIA KYOGLE, 2474  
(Kyogle, rich, needs summer rain, frost free)  
Cuttings of following available to any  
gardener who wishes to visit:  
Herbs: lemon balm, patchouli, camphor basil.  
Common Day Lily, white plumbago, potato tree,  
violets, datura, yellow bearded iris, iris  
japonica, iris holden clough, walking iris  
(neomarica sps.)  
Seeds of Brisbane Wattle, various iris,  
nigella, moon flower, other climbers,  
Kalamanci: fruit tree from the Philippines  
(tiny mandarin-sized fruit) and Cleome seed  
(hardy tall pink flowering annual).  
Loofah seed: origin Phoenix, cucurbit climber  
vigorous, large sponge fruits.  
Seed Lily: grows wild, tall 8' lily with  
white drooping tubular fragrant flowers  
around January.

PAUL RECHER, FRUIT SPIRIT, BOTANICAL GARDENS,  
DORROUGHEY, N.S.W, 2480  
Offers more than 60 varieties of fruit,  
native and exotic seeds at bulk seed prices  
or for exchange. Send for catalogue with a  
self-addressed stamped envelope. For  
collectors.

JENNY SMITH, UPPER COOPERS CREEK ROAD,  
ROSEBANK, 2480  
Red corn; Balinese multi-coloured corn; Gem  
squash.

LILA TAYLOR, P.O. BOX 69, BOGGABILLA, 2409  
"Poor man" beans (this would be Dolichos  
lablab): vigorous vine, flat bean about 3"  
long/1" wide, perennial.

PHIL THOMAS, UPPER DONGAY, MURWILLUMBAH, 2484  
(Murwillumbah, heavy, 68", 365)  
Kiwano: African horned melon, tasting like a  
cucumber when young and a melon when fully  
ripe; Yellow Cucumber: creamy white with  
small black spines, turns deep yellow when  
mature (Limited Quantity).





NEIL BARRACLOUGH, LANDY ST., BRIAGOLONG, 3860  
Giant Russian Sunflower: origin Phoenix  
 Seeds; Jerusalem artichoke tubers: till  
 October.

Grafting scions: variety of apple that bears  
 earlier than anything in the area including  
 Gravensteins; variety of Damsen plum growing  
 in an old goldmining area (high altitude /  
 fairly high rainfall) that has a flavour  
 second to none. The Damsen Plum seems to be  
 growing true to seed, so seeds available  
 also. Seeds and scion mid March only.

J.A. BILLING, 6 GENEVA ROAD, ALPHINGTON, 3078  
Oak Leaf Lettuce: loose leaf lettuce, grows  
 all year round in temperate conditions,  
 origin local farmer.

DR. IONE FETT, PEPPERMINT HILL, OLSEN RD, NAR  
 NAR GOON NORTH, 3812

Beans: Blue Lake and Redlands Pioneer;  
French Sorrel: roots and seed when they set,  
 send \$2.00 for the postage of the roots.

BILL HANKIN, "WOMBAT BLUFF", W-TREE VIA  
 BUCHAN, 3885

Sweet Corn "Callan", origin Phoenix '87;  
Parsnip "Harris Early Model"; Parsley "Curled  
 Leaf"; Beetroot "Formona", Italian variety  
 similar to Cyclindra (perhaps sweeter);  
Quinoa (pronounced "keenwa") "407".

L. JACOBS, LYONS ST., NEWBRIDGE, 3551  
 (Bendigo, black loamy, average, some frosts  
 May - Sept.)

Swan Pod shrub: evergreen shrub 3-4ft. high  
 with green seed pods in swan shape (Limited  
 Quantity).

MARY MICHAUX, 8 ALLAMBI ST., ASHWOOD, 3147  
New Zealand yam tubers (*Oxalis tuberosa*) in  
 small quantities; Black Prince pumpkin (*C.  
 maxima*) origin SSN; Climbing French Bean  
 seeds.

MARGARET PANIER, BOX 166, CLIFTON HILL, 3068  
 (Melbourne, heavy clay of basalt origin, 657  
 mm, 360)

Silver beet; Italian parsley; Yellow tomato:  
 small, very sweet and tasty except those  
 harvested late in season (Limited Quantity);  
Red tomato: origin Melbourne Markets, medium,  
 tasty, (Limited Quantity); Black Velvet  
 Lettuce: hard to grow, origin Phoenix Seeds.

CHARLES AND PAULINE ROSE, PO BOX 57, SWIFT'S  
 CREEK, 3896

Suckers of Kentish Cherry: not sweet, great  
 for bottling, pies, jam, wine, very hardy  
 (Limited Quantity).

MICHEL PORCHER, BOX 73, GISBORNE, 3437

Oca (*Oxalis tuberosa*, or possibly *O. crenata*)  
 tubers: available June, July, August every  
 year, eat baked, steamed, mashed, deep  
 fried; for cold areas plant spring in compost  
 in boxes and plant out after frost danger,  
 harvest June to August; for warm areas plant  
 at the beginning of the rains, earth as for  
 potatoes, mature in about 8 months; yield is  
 500 g to 1 kg per tuber when planted 1/2  
 metre apart in compost; origin New Gippeland  
Red Russian Kale seeds by mail, seed lings to  
 anyone prepared to get them in Melbourne: an  
 attractive, easy to grow kale

Perennial Leek: a multiplying leek once the  
 the seeds are harvested, the stem is cut at  
 ground level, the following spring or winter  
 baby leeks appear at the trunk, they can be  
 transplanted or let grow to eat

W. SCHNEIDER, 21 THEODORE AVE, NOBLE PARK, 3174  
 (Melbourne, clay, 35 inches)

Cuttings of pear tree: this type of tree has  
 been in the Dandenong Valley for about 100  
 years (Limited Quantity).

ARTHUR WILSON, RSD E709, MELBOURNE ROAD,  
 BALLARAT, 3350

Taylor's Dark Savoy cabbage: seedlings  
 offered for people in the area (need to be  
 picked up), very old variety that needs  
 saving, origin Fairbank's Seeds.

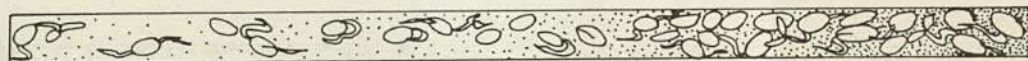
## Queensland

W.A. BERGMAN, 25 INVESTIGATOR STREET,  
 ANDERGROVE, MACKAY, 4740  
 (sandy loam)

West Indian gerkhin: father kept 20 years;  
Kiwano or prickly cucumber: kept five years;  
Dog Ear lettuce: 10 years; Rutgens tomato:  
 six years; French beans: small white seed  
 var. from Goodwins; purple seed var. from  
 Goodwins; Borlotti striped var. from  
 Goodwins; Redland Pioneer var. from Yates;  
 plus other varieties of beans.

FELIX BLACK, 5 MACKELLAR ST, TENERIFFE, 4005  
 (Brisbane, clay/loam, high rainfall, 365)

Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*): grows very well  
 clay soil/full sun, big bushy plant.





MRS. W. GEORGE, "TEMPE", MS 947, GYMPIE, 4570  
Dutchman's Pipe; Snail Creeper; Native Camellia; South African Tulip Tree.

GLEN HILLS, KIN KIN via GYMPIE, 4570  
Gold Kush Lettuce: origin SSN, very hardy, oak-leaf open-hearted; Laotian Lettuce: origin Henry Doubleday Research Association via Seed Savers, this one grew excellently; Balinese sweetcorn: non-hybrid, origin Phoenix Seeds.

I.R. HUTCHESON, BOX 5100, ROCKHAMPTON, 4702  
Rabbit's Ear Lettuce: 3rd generation seed, pick as required, good cool weather lettuce.

COLIN MACDONALD, MILL ROAD, MACKNADE VIA INGHAM, 4850

Please do not write asking for many varieties as Colin has recently had a spell in hospital.

Beans: Long Bean: climber, loves the heat; Long Bean: dwarf (Limited Quantity); New Guinea Bean: two types; Guada Bean: long and thin, from Covell's (Limited Quantity); Rice Bean; Winged Bean: from Cavallieri, MacKnade; Purple Poor Man's Bean, from Boggs, Townsville.

Jap Pumpkin: Queensland's favourite; Chinese Smooth Melon; Bitter Melon; Strawberry Popcorn: from SSN; Bullock Heart tomato: from SSN.

COLIN PAPWORTH, 41 HIRSCHFELD ST, ZILLMERE, 4034

Tomato: Hell Frucht, origin SSN, prolific bearer, small sweet fruit (Limited Quantity). Bean: Giant climbing snake bean, origin SSN, very long runners, beans are green with purple patches, prolific bearers, not stringless. Chinese lettuce: origin SSN, leafy variety.

BOB RAABE, 41 VICTORIA ST, FOREST HILL, 4342 (Gatton, sandy loam to black, 30-40", 360)  
Queensland Blue Pumpkin: smooth to slightly rough skin, orange or dark yellow flesh, sown after last frost, medium sized fruit to 4 kg, needs approx. 5 sq.m. to spread.

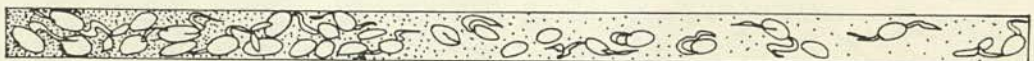
DAVID J. WATTS, PO BOX 70, BIGGENDEN, 4621 (Maryborough, black/heavy, 25" to 30", 350)  
Luffa egyptica: 'dishcloth gourd', organically grown, eat as marrow when or dry when mature and use as a sponge, long hot growing season needed.

FRANCES DURDIN, PO BOX 366, PT. ELLIOT, 5212 (Adelaide, sand over limestone, 23" winter - windy, 365)

Cucurbitae: Queensland Blue pumpkin: from Yates, extensive runner, good keeper; Black Prince pumpkin: from SSN via Michaux, over 15 lbs in weight on good soil, good keeper; Golden Nugget pumpkin: from SSN via Michaux, bush type; Banana Shaped pumpkin: from SSN via Schifferdecker, 18 lbs lovely flavour, joy to grow; Jarrahdale Trombone: from Diggers via SSN via Kath Lea, well known pumpkin, orange flesh, grey skin, medium size, excellent yield; Ballini Squash: from SSN via Lea, limited quantity, prolific grapefruit size, dark green with lighter stripes, superb texture and flavour; Tender and True Zucchini: from SSN via Lea, excellent flavour, very similar to Lebanese; Russian Cucumber: from SSN via Schifferdecker, limited quantity, very large, good to eat and for sweet and sour pickle.

Tomatoes: Golden Sunrise: from SSN via Lea, superb, medium size, turns yellow when ripe, very prolific bearer, lovely texture and flavour, stake; Mr. Stripes: from Thompson & Morgan via SSN via Lea, medium size red and yellow striped, prolific, stake; Big Tom: from SSN via Bone, 3 lb in good soil; 'Grandfather's' (Mr. Rivet, neighbours' parents): limited quantity, used by five generations currently at Hawker, Flinders Ranges, SA, 12" rainfall, good red tomato, stake.

Other: Italian Chicory: from Italian firm in early '70's, winter salad, strip out and discard midriff, pretty blue flowers attracted blue wrens; Black Spanish radish: from SSN via L. White, fun to grow 27" apart as turnip sized, very hot; Giant Sunflower: from Italian family in Victor Harbour 1988, HUGE face; Rainbow Chard: from SSN via Organic Growers, orange, red purple, yellow, like Silver Beet; Nicandra 'Shoofly' Flower: from Ryders 1957, legally brought over in 1958, 3' bushy annual lavender blue flower trumpet, white throat, green then brown Chinese Lantern full of seeds, seeds brown when ripe, long-lasting, sow AU & SP; Castor Oil seeds: use as temporary or permanent windbreaks, any soil OK; Single Hollyhocks:





from Yates (no longer on sale), some up to 11 ft. all shades white to maroon, excellent temporary windbreak round young citrus; Flinders Ranges Hops: gathered in 1963, grown in heavy acid soil to 1986, now OK in sand, not for brewing, 12" - 18" fresh green leaves, veined flower pod, turning to pink, red fawn; papery seed pod, very attractive, sow AU & SP.

F.N. FALK, 17 FAIRWAY ST, PARA HILLS, 5096  
Californian Cream Melon: hardy.

DAVID JAMES HEARN, LOT 606 RICHARDSON RD, c/- INGLEWOOD, 5133

(Adelaide Hills, temperate mountain - 400m)

Tomato: 3rd generation Grosse Lisse, Apollo; Silver Beet; Tree Tomato...

Root Cuttings: in moss, order by end Oct.

KATH & RON LEA, PMB 15, MINLATON, 5575

(Minlaton, grey alkaline sand pH 7.5, 18", no frost)

Cucurbita: Fordhook Zucchini: from New Gippsland Seeds, dark green cylindrical fruit, crops over a long period; Golden Zucchini - from New Gippsland Seeds, golden, slender cylindrical fruit, prolific bearer; Little Gem Squash: from New Gippsland Seeds, small round fruit, best eaten when green, turns orange with age; Long Green Bush Marrow: from Hortico, vigorous grower with long green, yellow striped fruit, limited keeping time; Cantaloup Honey Bush: from New Gippsland Seeds, compact vine, netted melon with delicious rich flavour; Ha-Ogen Melon: from Thompson & Morgan, original Israeli rockmelon, rich, aromatic, sweet, cream flesh; Honey Dew: from shop melon, white and yellow skinned varieties, green flesh, superb texture and flavour; Watermelon - Candy Red: from Goodman's Seeds Bairnsdale, large oval, light green-skinned melon, sweet and crisp; Watermelon - Crimson Sweet: from Phoenix, nearly round, crisp, sweet, deep red flesh, matures in 12 weeks; Watermelon - Delicious: from Hortico, large oval, dark green-skinned melon, sweet juicy red flesh; Watermelon - Sugar Bush: from New Gippsland Seeds, compact bush, early maturing, smallish melon, fine flavour; Armenian Cucumber: from New Gippsland Seeds, very long pale green-ribbed fruit, crisp and mild; Greek Cucumber: from Charlie Armenini, Adelaide, very large, oval,

pale green melon, with edible skin, solid flesh and a superb flavour.

Seven Year Bean: from Charlie Armenini, black seed, strong climber, prolific bearer of large, flat pale green pods, eat at snowpea stage, plant in Spring.

Chinese Greens - Bak Choy: from Thompson & Morgan, crisp, ice-white stems with fleshy, spinach-like leaves, rich in vitamins A & C, plant in Autumn.

Lettuce: Buttercrunch: from Yates, open loose variety, with sweet, nutty flavour, plant all seasons; Cos Verdi: from New Gippsland Seeds, vigorous, erect growth, crisp and sweet, sow AU & SP; Green Velvet: from New Gippsland Seeds, very crisp, large hearted, fine flavoured, sow all seasons; Perpetual: from SSN member Emmie Ramsay, Warooka, SA, oak leaf variety, very crisp, fine flavour, sow AU & SP.

Tomatoes: Wild Tomato: from SSN member Jim Bell, Nimbin, NSW, vigorous, staking variety, disease and trouble free, large crop of near golfball size, perfectly formed red salad tomatoes; Yellow Pear: from Yates, vigorous staking variety, prolific crop of bite size yellow pear-shaped fruit; Golden Sunrise: from SSN superb, medium sized turns yellow when ripe, very prolific bearer, lovely texture and flavour; Grosse Lisse: from Hendersons, well-known large red; Yellow Egg: from SSN, very firm, fine flavour, useful size; Mexican Beefsteak: from SSN solid flesh, good flavour; Jubilee: from Diggers, large, golden solid flesh, excellent flavour and texture, staking variety (Limited Quantity); Big Mexican: from SSN, excellent flavour and texture Mr. Stripey: from Thompson and Morgan, medium-sized, red and yellow striped, prolific bearer, staking variety and Oxheart: very large, soft fleshed, good for cooking.

Swede Turnip: Champion Purple Top: from Hortico, large, solid, long-keeping variety, plant Autumn.

Herbs: Sweet Basil: from Kings Herbs, large, fine flavoured leaves, excellent in tomato dishes, sow any time; Chinese (Garlic) Chives - Gow Choy: from Thompson & Morgan, attractive perennial with solid, dark green, flat leaves, more strongly flavoured than ordinary chives but garlic flavoured, produces all year round, sow all seasons; Parsley - Curled Leaf: from Henderson Home





garden, biennial, common popular variety, sow anytime; Parsley - Plain Leaf: from Kings herbs, very vigorous, healthy variety, fine, smooth flavour, sow all seasons.

MMIE RAMSAY, 'DENOMAYR', BOX 43, WAROOKA, 5577  
Perpetual Lettuce: oak leaf type; Broccoli:  
asil, Sweet and Lemon: lemon is from  
edderburn, Vic; Cherry Tomato; Marigold,  
frican and French (Tagetes): from Wild  
attle Island, Qld; Garlic Chives: from SSN  
ember Mrs. S. Beeson; Epicure Bean: from  
ackie Rosenberg, Sevenhill, SA; Blue Lake  
ean: probably Yates originally; Zucchini  
ordhook: from SSN members Kath and Ron Lea;  
uttings from a variety of herbs for anyone  
n the area.

LINDA WHITE & JAMES DEAN, 137 Nelson Road,  
ox Hill, 3129 very kindly printed out their  
lengthy list. We have had to reduce it to  
it it into the page.

Nearest lge town = Melb, generally. Few light frosts  
 May-July >5 deg. C. Soil type gen. clay loam.

PLANT NAME	SOURCE	NOTES
AMARANTH, RED	Phoenix '83	Plant spring to autumn. Vigorous grower. Requires frequent use to prevent bolting to seed. Taste similar to spinach.
ASPARAGUS	New Gippsland '88	Mary Washington. Planting instructions unknown.
AZUKI BEANS	Healthfood store '87 4-88	Plant late spring. Use dried beans.
BARLEY, BLACK	seed sav network '86 10-87	Plant autumn to early winter. Difficult to hand hull: rec. mainly for poultry feed or for sprouts.
BROAD BEAN	New Gippsland '86 11-87	Plant Mar/April or Aug/Sept. Tall variety: plant en masse or stake.
BROCCOLI, CALABRESE	Phoenix/Linda '87 5-88	Excellent for spring planting; prolific producer over several months.
BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Phoenix '87 11-87	Plant spring or autumn, but protect from snails, cabbage butterfly and APHIS.
BUCKWHEAT CAPE	Phoenix '86 self-sown see notes 4-87	Plant anytime. Will self-sow. Plant mid spring. Grows to 1 metre sprawling bush with lanterns inside which are golden berries when ripe. Yummy. Annual in Melb. in most year. Will easily self-seed. Full sun. Seed collected from plants naturalised in Hawthorn, Melb., Vic.
CELERY	Phoenix '86 11-87	Golden self blanching. Plant in seed trays in early spring. Keep moist. Will self-seed.
CHERRY CHILLIES	seed sav network '86 4-88	Plant mid to late spring. Vigorous plants; very hot chillies. Plant very pretty when chillies are on them. Full sun.
CORN SALAD	Phoenix '86 11-87	Plant anytime except mid-winter; requires partial shade in summer. Small plant with leaves nice for salads or steaming.

# OFFERS

continued

18

## Western Australia

MARGARET HESELTINE, 'UDIALLA', BOX 104, DERBY, 6728

(Derby, red sand, 24", frost free)

Onion seed: from Fitzroy Crossing Hotel via Quantum Downs Station, White Onion grown and developed by myself for 25 yrs. in the Kimberleys (Limited Quantity).

## and Victoria again

INDIAN COBRA MELON	seed sav member '87 4-88	Plant late Nov. to end Dec. Trailing habit; melons much like a marrow, except firmer and fatter.
JALEPENO CHILLIES	seed sav member '87 4-88	Plant mid to late spring. Very nice medium hot chillies. Requires full sun.
JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE	New Gippsland '85 5-88	Non-starch containing tubers. Tubers collected instead of seed. Plant autumn to late spring for a season's harvest. Close relative of sunflowers, and grows similarly. However, is invasive via those tubers which remain in the ground.
LEEK	New Gipps/Broers '86 4-88	Plant spring to autumn. Musselburgh. Plant thickly and transplant.
LIMA BEAN, PERUVIAN	seed sav network '86 4-88	Plant late spring to early summer. [Don't plant early, as growth won't keep up with snails] Pinto coloured beans; vigorous vine growth - allow for 2 metres of sideways trellising per plant. Prolific.
LOOSE LEAF LETTUCE	seed sav network '86 1-88	Plant spring to summer. With regular use, will last for most of a season. Very nice flavour, and prolific grower. Linda's seed may not produce plants true to type, as was flowering near to another type of lettuce. Use James' seed for distribution.
MIZUNA	Phoenix '86 10-87	Gold rush loose leaf, from Yandroit, Vic, old strain from Chinese gold digger 1850's.
NEW ZEALAND SPINACH	Phoenix '86 4-88	Plant anytime; but is a good winter green for salads or cooking. Harvest by "mowing" plant. Keep cut back to prevent flowering. Very easy to grow.
PERPETUAL LETTUCE	seed sav member '87 4-88	Plant spring to early summer. Will establish permanently. Domesticated variety of "pigweed". Yummy! & almost carefree.
PUMPKIN	see notes 2-88	Plant spring to early summer. With regular use, will last for a whole season. Nice flavoured leaf lettuce. Several types: orange with white lobes [Phoenix '87]; Q'land blue [seed sav member '87]; orange ridged [lge. from Will,



		origin unk.); orange smooth [med.](New Gippsland '86); green round [small](New Gippsland '86). Plant late spring to early summer. Allow lots of room, and feed very well.	TOMATO, LITTLE STRIP	seedsav network '86	Plant early spring indoors and transplant Nov. Long viney growth req. staking or trellising for best results. Small, delicious fruit, susceptible to snails, slaters if left on ground.
RADISH, BLACK SPAN.	Phoenix '86	Plant anytime. Grows turnip-sized black very hot radishes. Easy to grow.	TOMATO, ROMA	New Gippsland '85 4-88	Plant early spring and transplant outdoors Nov. Fairly compact growth, but does better if staked. Traditional egg-shaped fleshy tomato, usually used for sauces, etc. Mild flavour.
RED MAIZE	seedsav member '87	Plant Nov., full sun. Tall; red kernels. Seed from Kath & Ron Lea, SA; from seed sav. network prior to them.	TOMATO, TINY TIM	New Gippsland '86 4-88	Plant indoors early spring for transplanting Nov. Compact bushy growth, good for pot plants or limited space. Sweet/tart fruit about 2 cm diameter.
RED MIGNON. LETTUCE	New Gippsland '87	Plant spring to autumn. Use leaves singly, or the whole plant. Linda's seeds may not breed true to type, as another variety of lettuce was flowering nearby.	V. LONG EDIBLE GOURD	seedsav member '87 4-88	Plant mid to late spring. Vigorous growing trailing vine; prolific bearer. Very interesting flavour. If left to mature, the gourd is very tough, like other gourds. White flowered. [I think that the vines stink when rubbed!]
SCARLET RUNNER BEAN	New Gippsland '86	Plant Nov. to Dec. Grows very tall, > 2 m.; sturdy trellis required. Prolific producer; perennial. Cut back to 30 cm. after season's production. Very long edible pods. Frost resistant.	WHITE TRAILING MARRO	seedsav member '87 4-88	Plant late spring. Traditional variety.
SHUNGINKU	Phoenix '87	Plant anytime. Edible chrysanthemum; cook growth tips. Grows about 1 m. if let go. Keep picked to prevent going to seed. Traditional Chinese veg. flavour.	ZUCCHINI, LEBANESE	New Gippsland '86 1-88	Plant late spring, early summer. Pale green, short fat zucchini, slow to go tough-skinned. Trailing growth habit.
SILVERBEET, RAINBOW	Phoenix '85	Plant anytime. Protect from snails as seedlings. Full sun to half shade. Very easy to grow. Stems range from white to yellow to deep red in colour.	CALIFORNIA POPPY	New Gippsland '85 11-17	Plant spring to summer, sown direct, self-seeding.
SPRING ONION	New Gippsland '86	Plant anytime. Bunching variety. Plant thickly & transplant or thin.	COLUMBINE (PURPLE)	self-sown see notes 11-17	Plant spring. Flowers 2nd year. Frost hardy perennial cottage flower. Collected from Camberwell, Melb., Vic., '85.
SUNFLOWER (GIANT)	Phoenix '85	Plant mid to late spring. Very tall; prefer full sun and manure.	DIANTHUS	New Gippsland '86 11-87	Plant spring to late summer. Perennial carnation relative with low spreading habit and variety of scented blooms.
SWEET JADE	Phoenix '87	Plant early spring indoors and transplant late Nov. Eggplant cousin, green fruit less bitter than eggplant, skins more tender. Warning: spiky thorns on fruit stem base!	FOXGLOVES(DI GITALIS)	self-sown see notes 1-88	Plant spring. Annual 1 metre tall flower with potent digitalis poison. Attractive. Collected from James Dean, Belgrave, Melb., Vic., 1988. Sow late autumn or spring. 1.5 m tall annual flower. 2 colours avail: deep pink (not for distribution); purple can be distributed.
SWEET PEA, WILD	selfseeded see notes	Plant early to late spring. Vigorous grower; attractive purple pea flowers with less perfume than the cultured varieties. Collected on roadside in Selby, Melb., Vic.	HOLLYHOCK	self-sown see notes 3-88	Plant spring to autumn. Tall half-double variety. Vigorous. Seed originally collected from a suburban garden.
TAMARILLO	New Gippsland '85	Plant late spring [or earlier indoors]. Subtropical, fast-growing tree, which bears in 2nd year of growth. Frost resistant but not wind tolerant.	MARIGOLD	Box Hill garden '86 10-87	
TOMATO, GOLDEN DROP	self-sown see notes	Plant early spring indoors, transplant outdoors in Nov. Long, viney growth req. staking or trellising for best results. (Vines up to 3 metres!) Prolific, small yellow fruit, v. sweet, yummy. Saved from compost, Selby, Melb., Vic., '85	BORAGE	New Gippsland '85 4-88	Plant any time of year. Self-seeding annual with edible leaves & flowers (which are pale blue).
			DILL	Yates '87 11-17	Plant spring to early summer. Annual herb.
			HORSERADISH	New Gippsland '86 5-88	Roots planted autumn to spring. Roots collected. Easy to grow in well dug soil. Leaves prone to being chewed by snails, slugs and cabbage butterfly larvae.
			LOVAGE	self-sown see notes 3-88	Plant spring to autumn. Perennial herb with strong celery flavour. One plant enough for family. Grows similarly to celery. Collected from Selby, Melb., Vic. (Debbie D.) '88.
			SWEET BASIL	Phoenix/Yates '87 5-88	Plant from early spring to early summer. Annual in southern states. Prefers full sun. Many people like to plant it near tomatoes, with which it is often used in cooking.

### MARKING SEEDS PACKET

- Your name and the town in which you live.
- The original source of the seed stock.
- Month and year of harvest.
- Any cultivation notes would be helpful.



# SEED AID

by Bill Mollison

In October 1987 I was able to take 30-40 types of seed donated by members of the Seeds Savers Network to Botswana. Permaculture students split up the seed into 15 lots across people from Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Botswana (three locations in Botswana: Maun, Serowe, Lobatse). At Lobatse, Mr. Rompou, a retired school inspector, agreed to be the coordinator for a seed exchange. Revisiting in July 1988, I was pleased to see the Harare (Zimbabwe) gardens of the Fambidzanai training programme bursting with our seeds; Korilla (*Cyclanthera pedata*) were doing fine, as were the winged bean, snake bean (this is a local also), N.Z. spinach, grain amaranth and some other vegetables. By the time I left in late July, this group had packaged and redistributed perhaps 30% of the original seeds; tagasaste and other small trees were potted and at present seem to flourish.

I also saw several students and many reported other successes with seed. The local Mocopan (African Horned Melon, known in N.Z. as Kiwano!) (*Acanthosicyos* *audianus* or *Cucumis metuliferus*) is a less sweet variety than Australian seed and people were pleased to get the better seed of an African native species which is grown on the thorny hedges or cut fences of the compounds. As well, our permaculture course has stimulated the local collection of seed so that local open-pollinated hardy varieties of desert sorghum, maize, melons, pumpkin, gourds and berry and tree fruits are now being collected and assessed. Russel Clark and his wife, Gao, have extensive seed collections of local, non-hybrid, traditional dryland crops and will be planting out seed varieties next wet season in order to bulk up these varieties, some of which are "bird resistant" because of long awns; others are very good keepers.

For direct enquiries or gifts of seed write to Russel Clark  
PO Box 122  
Serowe, Botswana

## SEED THOUGHTS

# 20

Seeds need not always be collected, processed, and stored away. Merely leaving a good plant to self seed can give the variety more of a chance to adapt to local conditions. Thinning out the seedlings, and transplanting some may be necessary. You will notice there are self seeded varieties offered in the list. For this, some species are more appropriate than others e.g. herbs, lettuces, onions.

## VIDEO FOR SCHOOLS

Work is continuing on a video for primary students on the magic of seeds. Several professional film makers have offered their help. We have talented scriptwriters and musical composers, experienced technical personnel and a cooperative school staff all ready to go.

The aims will be to show children the value of fresh food from a garden, the fun of gardening and seed saving, and the availability of seed in the neighbourhood. Amongst the outcomes could be a revival of the vegetable garden in schools, young sleuths scouring their environs for good seed, fruit and nut trees planted in schools (as Nimbin already has). All members of the team are presently working in film and have strong track records. They have offered their time, equipment and expertise because they want to be instrumental in change, and they associate with our aims. They are donating thousands of dollars worth of their know how and labour. At this stage only money is needed to make this happen.

We will still have to pay for travel expenses, for hire of equipment, for film, processing, editing, and for copying for distribution.

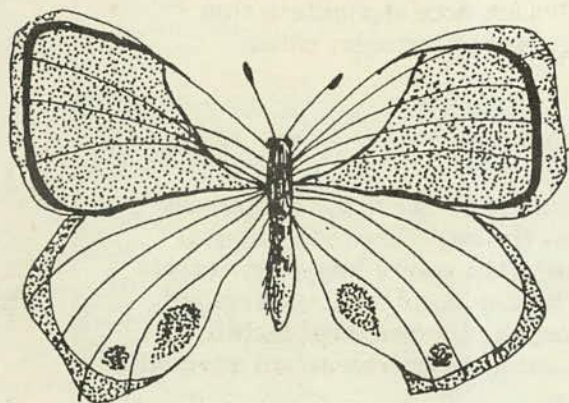
Film synopsis and curriculae vitae of the film-makers will be sent to anyone interested in supporting this project financially.

*From "Permaculture 1"*  
*When greed was all my love,  
my strength was none  
There is no seed,  
for those who plant a stone*



We have been saddened to hear that some of our older members have passed away.

We offer our condolences to Mrs. Heseltine of Derby in WA in the passing of her husband. She will be our contact now, having shared 30 years of gardening and seed saving with Bob.



Mrs. O'Brien wrote saying that her uncle, Mr. McPaul died in Proserpine at 92 early this year. Two years ago he sent us many great seeds amongst which was the "Brown Lettuce", a wonderful romaine open-hearted type that he had from an American soldier in 1943. It has been sent to many members.

We loved his humour. One seed packet he sent was labelled "seeds of knowledge" which we opened in great haste: sure enough, it contained words of wisdom.

A local member, Wesley from Fingal Head (near the Qld. border), passed away at 94. He gardened right till the end and died in his own bed. He had given us a wonderful yellow sweet potato that he got from Fiji 40 years ago, when he was sailing; but we will remember him for his old-time humour that we appreciated so much.

#### SEED CONTACTS

Jason Alexander, Victorian Treecrop Nursery Hazeldean Road, Ellinbank, 3820

We currently grow approximately 200,000 trees including numerous varieties of a wide range of fruit and nut trees. We send our trees throughout South Eastern Australia and we may be able to help people find particular varieties. We are also interested in collecting especially productive varieties of temperate fruits and nuts. Anybody requesting our catalogue or further information can write to us. May we preserve both annual and perennial genetic resources!

Alf Finch, Eden Seeds, M.S. Gympie, 4570.

Alf is looking for growers of non hybrid seeds: "I'd like to provide an outlet for people to spread non hybrids as widely as possible. We have gone to a lot of trouble, time and money to set up a retail distribution network. We wish to service this with home-grown cottage industry sources."

Phoenix Seeds, Box 96, Stanley, 7331. Has a wide range of great seeds that appear everywhere in our listing; they also have tree seeds. Free catalogue.

Minara Pty Ltd, Box 69, Aspley, 4034. Stocks interesting Asian varieties at 65 cents a packet.

Northern Rivers Herb Growers and Marketers Association Box 171, South Lismore, 2480. Has a good newsletter on propagation and properties of herbs.

Diggers Seeds, 105 Latrobe Parade, Dromana, 3936. Mail order, plenty of non-hybrid vegetables.



PLANT VARIETY RIGHTS

The Seed Savers' Network is subscribing to "Plant Varieties Journal" Vol. No. 2 June '88 had 18 pages and colour photos of the rose and macadamia varieties proposed for patenting.

Here are some excerpts:

page 2: "PVR only applies to CULTIVATED PLANTS, not to selections from the wild which have not been further developed in cultivation."

page 4: PVR "applicants will be required to demonstrate that the new variety is different from the varieties of common knowledge" which (from page 6) "will be defined as:

- \* varieties registered for PVR in Australia;
- \* varieties for which an application for PVR has been lodged in Australia;
- \* varieties in commerce in Australia;
- \* varieties listed on an existing register (e.g. Herbage Plant Register, Australian Cultivar Register);
- \* other varieties positively identified (reproductive material available) as a result of publication of the application in the Plant Varieties Journal; and
- \* other varieties considered relevant by the PVR office."

A letter of enquiry is being sent to the Registrar, asking whether family seeds will be included in this last category - whether your seeds will be taken into consideration. We will print the outcome next issue.

page 7: "A fee of \$60 is payable at the time of lodging a formal objection and \$50/hour will be charged if the examination of the objection by the PVR Office takes longer than 2 hours."

Not all species can be patented as yet but this is our summary of the "Proposed schedule for including genera/species in the PVR regulations" from page 15:

by January '89 all citrus, all stone fruits, acacia, casuarina, & many others;  
by July '89 all vegetables, all nuts, all herbage & turf grasses, all oilseeds, all pasture & grain legumes;

by March 90 all fruit, all grains, all native ornamentals, all ornamentals, all forestry, and all other species.

Submissions seeking an amendment can be made up to 5 months before the date of implementation. Send to Kathryn Adams, Registrar of Plant Variety Rights, Bureau of Rural Resources, GPO Box 858, Canberra, ACT 2601, tel. 062 71 6472.

Journal available for \$30 p.a. from Govt. Publishing Service, Box 84, Canberra, 2601

## MEMBERSHIP

**FOUNDATION MEMBERS:** Bill Mollison, Sally Smith, Neil Walker, Carmelo Casella, Jenny Edgerly and friends, donated \$300 as life time members, for long term goals of the project.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS** who donated \$100: Julian Bamping, Andrew Jeeves, Homeland Foundation, Michael Self, Jacqui Fithall, Frederico, Edna Kiss, Fay Roth, Dr. M. Harris (Glebe).

### YOUR GENEROSITY AND FORESIGHT APPRECIATED IN THESE EARLY YEARS

WE HAVE INCLUDED A REMINDER IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS OVERDUE:

\$10 FOR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP OR  
\$5 FOR MEMBERS WHO OFFER SEEDS IN THE "OFFERS" LIST OR  
\$2 FOR AGED PENSIONERS

WITH A FOURTH OPTION OF \$30 FOR SUPPORTIVE MEMBERSHIP



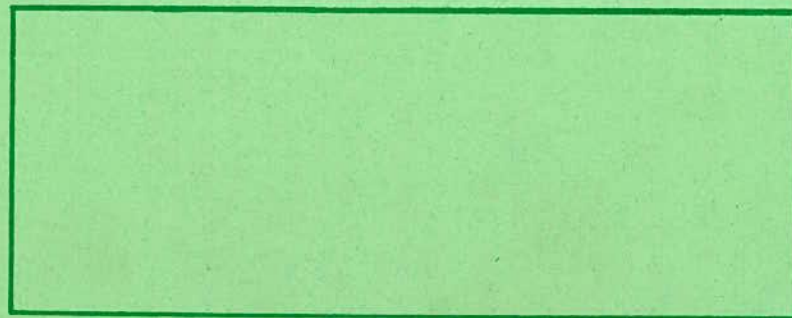
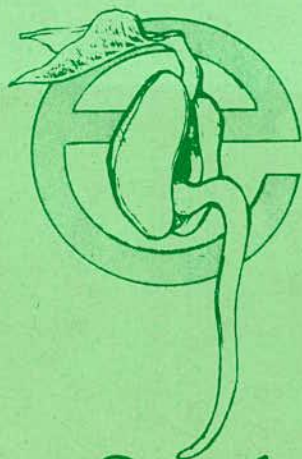
PERMACULTURE: A DESIGNER'S MANUAL,  
at last! after four years' preparation,  
by Bill Mollison

The definitive book on Permaculture. 600 pages, 130 colour photos, 450 line drawings, weight 1.6 kg, in a limited hardbound edition. The book covers in great detail: climate design methods, property design, patterns in nature and Permaculture, orchards and forestry, pioneering, aquaculture, village design, alternative economics and ethical investment. You will view your garden and land in a new light after reading this book!

It was offered in the last newsletter for \$40; it is now at a promotional price of \$58 plus \$5 for handling and postage. Allow three weeks for delivery. This offer ends at Xmas '88; then it will cost \$70.

The Seed Savers' Network is helping to distribute the book for the author.

Write to Permaculture Book Box 24, Nimbin, 2480.



# The Seed Savers' Network

PO Box 24 NIMBIN NSW 2480