

No 11

SPRING

NEWSLETTER

September 1991



THE SEED SAVERS' NETWORK

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INTRODUCTION

Many seeds have been coming back into the Network's seed bank. There are old friends like the Muffet Bean and Rabbit's Ear Lettuce, as well as a great deal of new (to us) and rare ones, like Butter Melon, parsnips that a Mrs Chapman grew in Augusta W.A. for 20 years, and Long Lavendar White Eggplant. We are up to number 1015 in our accessions book.

There have been good reports of seeds exchanged through last year's newsletter e.g. Kath Lea sent a record of the thirty people who wrote to her for seeds and potatoes.

Seed saving groups have formed within garden clubs in MacKay and Mount Tambourine in Qld and in the Manning Valley in NSW.

We have purchased a Macintosh computer and printer. There have been a few teething problems but we are now sufficiently trained to produce this newsletter with them. We apologise to the approximately hundred folk who have ordered the manual in the last three months. That is our next major project.

David Cavagnaro from The Seed Savers' Exchange in USA has been invited to Australia in February by Diggers Seeds which has interesting heirlooms in its catalogue. We hope to attract him up here. At the end of January next year we will be speaking at the Organic Growers of East Gippsland's Fair, one of us will be at the Harvest Picnic in Melbourne at the end of February, and in Adelaide in March. We plan a visit to north Queensland in the middle of next year. If you know of clubs or groups in these areas that would like to have speakers at those times, let us know. See you at the Annual Gathering in November.

Jude and Michel Fanton

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SEED TRAVELS

a speech by J. L. Hudson Seedsman,
P.O. Box 1058, Redwood City California, 94064
USA

From the beginning I have stressed open-pollinated seeds and the preservation of our genetic resources. I support the free and unrestricted world-wide exchange of seeds and knowledge.

This year I would like to talk about the popular idea that 'non-native' species are somehow harmful, that 'aggressive exotics' can invade ecosystems and destroy 'native species'. It surprises me to see the public and biologists alike uncritically accept this absurd notion.

"But the Emperor has no clothes!" –
Folktale

In this spirit I would like to point out that there is absolutely no biological validity to the concepts of 'native' and 'exotic' species, nor is there evidence that man's introduction of species into new habitats has any negative impact on global biological diversity. On the contrary, the aid we have given species in their movement around the world has served to *increase both global and local diversity*. It is one of the few human activities which is beneficial to the non-human creation. It cannot be distinguished from the movement of species by wind or ocean currents, or the aid other species give to their fellows, such as the distribution of seeds by migrating birds.

"All living beings have the right to engage in the struggle for existence." – L.H. Bailey

There are no adequate definitions of 'native' and 'exotic', since there has been constant movement of species across the Bering Straits and the Isthmus of Panama. Great exchanges of species has occurred between both oceanic and continental biota in these areas [witness also Gondwana the super continent made up of what is now South America, Africa, India, Antarctica, Australia and parts of Central Asia until some 90 million years ago, according to Mary White one of Australia's leading botanists - Eds] as they have been repeatedly submerged and exposed, alternately being corridors for aquatic and terrestrial life. In response to the Ice Ages, great movement of species has occurred. Even now, I understand that the armadillo is extending his range north from his native Mexico. Is he an exotic invader? If we naturalize elephants in the tropical Americas, will they be exotics, or will this simply be the return of the *Proboscidea* to their pre-glacial range?

Apparent cases of destructive invasion by 'exotics' are usually examples of the beginning of an out-break-crash population sequence occurring as a species moves into the niche provided by a heavily man-disturbed habitat, to be followed by the inevitable crash and subsequent adaptation and integration of the 'exotic' into the local ecosystem.

Intact ecosystems are highly resistant to invasion, and there are many examples of 'exotics' acting as nurse-plants and revegetators, helping in the native ecosystem to reclaim its man-destroyed habitat. I have seen a grassy meadow and a field of star thistles side by side, with only barbed wire separating them. The fence can't stop the thistle seed, yet it does not invade the intact meadow, showing the thistle to

be an antibody-like response of the prairie ecosystem to overgrazing by cattle.

New species create niches for more species, further increasing potential diversity. Many species are extinct in their original habitat, existing only where they have been introduced to new areas by man. We are changing the world through our destruction, pollution, and now possible climate change. Local ecosystems *need* the infusion of new species to help their adaptation to a changed environment.

"You stay. I go" _ Ishi , last of the Yana.

It is ironic to me to hear that people of European ancestry accuse other living organisms of been 'invasive exotics, displacing native species'.

Even the wildest unfounded claims of invasions by 'exotics' pale in comparison to the land area occupied by technological man's monoculture crops. Those crop-deserts and modern man's extractive land-domination economy are the threat to bio-diversity, not escaped 'exotics'.

There are documented cases in which attempts to exterminate 'exotics' have in fact pushed native species to the brink of extinction!

Attempts to eradicate so-called non-native species are impossible, absurd, and destructive to the very habitats they hope to preserve. As an alternative, I propose: The protection of all intact ecosystems from human destruction, and the deliberate introduction of species into the areas we have already damaged. Introduction priorities should be based on phylogenetic relationships-non represented groups and taxa of restricted distribution should be given priority. Threatened and endangered species should be given full protection and introduced into new

habitats whenever possible.

"Migrants of ape in gasoline crack of history." - William Burroughs

We have only a brief moment in history when fossil fuels will continue to allow us rapid world-wide travel. Let us use this time wisely, to the benefit of all species.

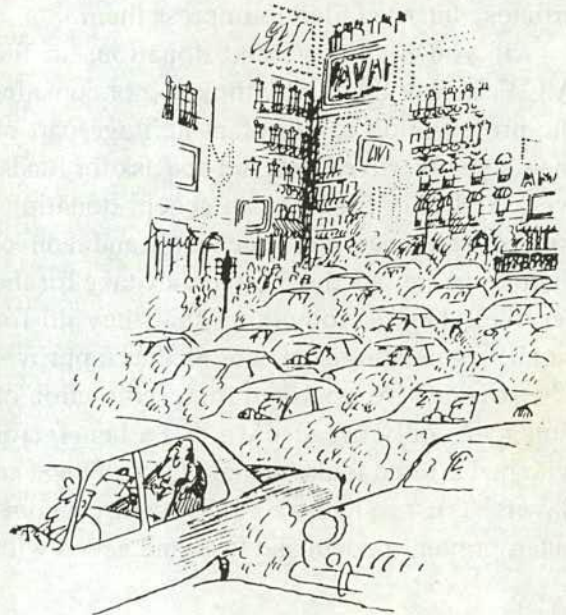
PERMACULTURE COURSES

Fifty participants came to a successful Permaculture Design Certificate Course which The Seed Savers' Trust ran in Byron Bay last month as a fundraiser.

Bill Mollison and Jude Fanton taught the 72 hr curriculum. We will continue to run courses in October / November, and into 1992.

Tell your friends.

Contact us for more information on future weekend and two week courses.



IN THE WILDERNESS

In the number 10 Autumn Bulletin we inserted a quick note under the title "finances".

The Australian Conservation Foundation was in the process of deciding whether Seed Savers was eligible for favoured status, i.e. to become one of its stable of organizations, to whom tax deductible donations can be redirected.

We had the news, via the money manager of the A.C.F., that its Executive Director Phillip Toyne did not think that the Seed Savers' Trust was in line with the "core objectives" of his organization. They nevertheless said that the project "*seems admirable*".

We sent to the A.C.F. the Seed Savers' Trust documents, and references Seed Savers has gathered over the years; included in the folder were newsletters, pamphlets, and media articles, but we failed to impress them.

If you regularly send donations to the A.C.F. do ask them why they do not consider the preservation of our plant heritage part of their core objectives. We did not ask for funds, we asked only for them to accept donations from our members and benefactors and redirect them to us (minus the 5% fee they take for the service). This is something that they do for small organisations of whom they approve. The reason why we asked for a redirection of funds was only because we had a benefactor who had offered to donate enough to The Seed Savers' Trust so that we could acquire a computer, printer, modem and fax; and get on with

the job more effectively.

We will try in future to obtain tax deductibility for Seed Aid Trust. Apparently this can be obtained through only an act of Parliament and is not easy to get. By comparison the Seed Savers Exchange in U.S.A., which is a sister organization, has been granted this status from the very beginning, 12 years ago. In Australia it is naturally different. It seems that the federal government prefers to concentrate the right to tax deductible donations to a few large organizations.

We are often asked why we do not apply for government assistance as there are plenty of suitable grants which we may be able to attract.

Last year we had the friendly visit of a curator in the Australian Network of Plant Genetic Resource Centres who was offering to act as a consultant for Seed Savers and apply for a grant from the Department of Primary Industries for purchasing a computer and a typist to enter data.

He also wanted a duplication of Seed Savers' entire collection which in itself would not have been a bad thing as seeds are better off in more than one basket. However we had already decided that Seed Savers would remain independent of government bodies. We stuck to that policy and rejected the offer.

If overseas experience is anything to go by, we should start to consider documenting every seed variety entering the seed bank by way of description and photography.

If a plant variety has enough interesting features to be released on the market then it can be patented providing that the plant breeder applying can prove it is a totally new variety.

Obviously, if we record carefully every

vegetable variety that we come across, then we can lodge an official objection to the plant variety rights office in Canberra if we see fit. It would cost us a fair bundle!

Even Australian native plants can be patented, see page 9 of our Autumn Bulletin 1990, which may give the A.C.F. some "food" for thought.

Let's bring conservation consciousness back into a closer focus - nearer to our noses or even to our mouths.

SHATTERING BOOK

by Michel Fanton

The Rural Advancement Fund International has published a great book which I read and warmly recommend that you read.

A quote from 1990 Harvest edition S.S. Exchange U.S.A..

For over ten years, Cary Fowler and Pat Mooney have worked to educate the public and international policy makers about one of the worlds most serious, but little known, environmental catastrophes: The loss of genetic diversity in agriculture.

Fowler and Mooney's new book, *Shattering: Food, Politics, and the loss of Genetic Diversity*, describes an environmental which sets the stage for widespread hunger. At stake is the integrity, future and control of the first link in the food chain: the seed. Written for the lay reader, *Shattering* brilliantly describes the struggle for control of seeds, as nations and companies now vie for access to and benefits from the world's plant genetic resources.

The reading certainly helped Jude and I to better understand what we are doing and why we are doing it.

We ordered 36 books by sea mail early August for keen members and media people who seek updated information. It costs \$20 to get here. It is soft bound, has 278 pages, weighs 550 grams with envelope. See page 24

A BITE OF THE APPLE

In the last bulletin we were talking about the imminent purchase of a computer, fax, and modem. We just have acquired a Mac Classic 4/105 and a StyleWriter printer. We have several useful programmes such as Filemaker-Pro, Pagemaker 4.0, Microsoft Word, and MacPaint that we are learning. We had to pay \$25 an hour for setting up the data base and that is considered cheap!

All the subscriber list is on file and this newsletter has been published with the new machines. The next major job is to set up and put the seed lists on file. Then we shall be able to give more information about each variety.

If you have any computer skills that you would like to share with us, they would be most welcome, especially if you are living a local phone call away. If you are living in another region maybe we could get in touch through E-Mail. Our Pegasus contact is: seedsavers



TUNE US IN

by Michel Fanton

Lately I have been reading and filing all the letters that Seed Savers' ever received...literally hundreds of members were asking how they could help? To which I always answer with a question: What do you know best and how would you like to be involved?

It will take all manner of expertise to bring Seed Savers to its best.

Here is a job for those far away members who read regularly the printed media, and keep up with current affairs programmes on television. I realize that we are missing out on some interesting bits of information. Maybe you could help here and cut out or photocopy articles that you would like us to read, or that you would like to see printed in future issues of Seed Savers'.

When the Seed Savers' Trust runs Permaculture courses, we show participants videos on seed issues and related subjects. If you can tape an interesting programme and send it to us, the Trust would reimburse your expenses.

We just received a video from Mrs Winter in Bollon South East Queensland. It was *Seeds of Tomorrow* an excellent film shown on *Beyond 2000* which I regret I had never watched before. It was screened a year and a half ago! All the same it was very useful to watch and has been good to show in our talks.

Perhaps you could mention a programme to watch or send a synopsis of the content of one you have seen that pertains to Seed Savers.

Thank you for being part of the Network.

SEED AID TO THE PENANS

Brett Pritchard, a graduate from one of our permaculture courses, worked for three months earlier this year with his wife, Tania in Penan re-settlement villages in Sarawak. The Penans are fast losing the rainforests that are their traditional hunting and gathering grounds to avaricious logging by the Malays.

Brett and Tania took along many types of seeds from Seed Savers and immediately planted a huge community garden. In the six weeks that they were in their host village over 4,000 new plants including beans, snake beans, corn, and paw-paws, were flourishing in the equatorial heat. The confidence of the Penans is growing as they see these new foods as a substitute for their fast disappearing traditional foods and their health, which was very poor, is improving. Brett and Tania have been sponsored in part by the Body Shop and will be going in October for six months with Seed Savers seeds to the 31 other villages that have requested gardens. Tropical climate seed donations, small and large quantity, welcome.

GARDENS FOR THE MEDIA

Seed Savers has started a register of gardeners who don't mind to talk to the media. We are gearing up for a higher profile and need spokespersons in as many places as possible. We are sometimes asked for a plant that is going to seed, or a seed saver for a photograph in some other part of the country. If you have a story of hand-me-down seeds, plants that regularly go to seed, or would like to show a journalist around your garden, let us know now. This coverage will help others to be involved in full cycle gardening. *See page 23*

AN OVERVIEW OF SEED SAVING

by Paul Gardner 1991

The information presented here describes general techniques for the extraction/collection of seed from common garden plants. As pure seed is not always an absolute requirement, some procedures may be omitted in practice. [Paul went on to describe techniques for the family groups of common vegetables but constraints of space precluded their inclusion. Ed.]

Why Save Seeds from the Garden?

Some of the main reasons are

- * to enable the gardener to select for locally adapted strains that are more suited to particular conditions or methods
- * to give access to a far greater range of varieties (and also other vegetable species) which are not or cannot be commercially produced
- * to allow multiplication of rare or expensive varieties for future use or distribution
- * to avoid the use of commercial hybrids which are generally designed for high response yield to high inputs of water, fertilizer and other management.

The Need For Pure Seed

Although crossing between varieties can be highly beneficial, i.e. by adding useful characteristics to a variety, and in the creation of new varieties, uncontrolled or random crossing can often be a disadvantage. The heirloom and traditional varieties of vegetables each represent unique sets of characteristics that have been favoured and maintained by gardeners, in some

cases over hundreds of years. Such varieties are often hard to improve upon. They also often represent specific cultural information (e.g. a green eggplant from Thailand or a paste tomato from Italy) that is probably best maintained with as little change as possible, as a representation of that culture and as a unique culinary ingredient in food preparation (it may not be sufficient to substitute New York Purple Eggplant for a Thai Bitter Green Eggplant in a Thai curry or to substitute a salad tomato for an Italian Paste Tomato in a pasta recipe).

Once the gardener has gained access to such unusual and unique varieties, uncontrolled crossing will probably tend to be detrimental to the variety (e.g. growing New York Purple and Thai Bitter Eggplant side by side could by chance produce a beautiful purple and green eggplant in subsequent generations but the original characteristics of both varieties will be



gradually eroded over time). Even the more common commercially available open pollinated (non-hybrid) varieties may now require attention, simply because it has been a recent worldwide trend for them to be dropped from production by large seed companies in favour of hybrids, or other patentable varieties from which further royalties can be earned. Thus many of the packet seeds of vegetable varieties now available on the nursery or supermarket shelf may simply no longer be there in the future.

General Techniques of Seed Saving

It is a mistake to save seed from only the largest and best plants or fruit. Although these plants are important candidates for seed saving, it is also important to collect from other plants in an attempt to maintain levels of variation inherent in open pollinated varieties. The main failure of F1 hybrids is in that, as all plants of an F1 hybrid variety are virtually identical, they all show the same responses under the same conditions. Thus, under ideal conditions all plants will perform well but under adverse conditions, all plants of that variety may fail. The variability of open-pollinated varieties allows individual plants to respond differently under the same conditions and this allows the the particular variety to be overall more responsive to changed conditions in a season or over successive seasons. It is important to maintain levels of variation in open pollinated strains. Probably the most important factor in this is to grow out a sufficiently large population of plants so that significant variation is represented each generation, although different species (and individual varieties) may be more or less prone to the detrimental effects of

inbreeding which is the main cause of seed "running out".

Some general guidelines can be stated like this:

- * the more a species (or variety) has a natural tendency to self-pollination, the less it will be affected by inbreeding (a bean variety that is 99% self-pollinating will not be expected to suffer from inbreeding).

- * the more a species (or variety) tends toward outcrossing and has inbuilt mechanisms to prevent self-pollination of plants the more likely it will suffer from inbreeding in small populations.

- * thus outcrossing species (or varieties) need particular attention to correct population size in growouts.

- * it is also important not to grow too few individuals of the mainly self-pollinators as variation is not only maintained or derived by genetic exchange in cross pollination, but also by various means of genetic "re-shuffling", natural mutation, even in the progeny of a single plant.

For serious attempts at preservation of varieties it is generally best to grow out twenty to fifty individual plants of any variety. The same would apply to anyone attempting to maintain their own seed over the long term.

Once the plant population is grown out and allowed to cross pollinate freely it is necessary to collect from this variation when gathering the seed.

Traditional farmer/gardeners around the world, knowing the importance of maintaining variation in their crops follow the following system:

- * systematic collection of material from all plants in the population
- * collection of unusual variants
- * collection from exceptional plants

It may be apparent that such procedures are more easily applied to some crops than others before or after harvest, e.g. dry corn versus sweet corn, or fruiting plant versus heading or root vegetable.

In those crops that are usually harvested before seed maturity it is important that both representative, and exceptional, individuals of a variety should be allowed to remain to flower and set seed.

When assessing plants for suitability for seed collection it is wise to look at the whole plant rather than just one or two characteristics (bigger is not always better). In the case of a tomato, the importance of fruit quality must be looked at along with factors such as overall plant health, leaf cover (for the shading the fruit), and vine size (for the support of the fruit). An individual plant that produces large fruit in mid-season is just as valuable as one that can produce slightly smaller fruit a little earlier. A watermelon which produces two very large fruit may not be any more valuable than a plant producing four half size fruits.

Seed Storage Techniques

The technology of seed saving can range from the high tech long term seed bank, to a basket or sack in the farmer's home. The home gardener will probably require seed to remain viable for a few years, as a back up to failed crops etc.

Before storage is considered, seed must be well dried. Seed extracted from fruiting plants

should be smeared out on absorbent paper with the seed well spaced. The paper and seed is then left to dry for several days. A warm dry place is usually sufficient for this, and drying in full sun or oven are not necessary.

Seed stalks should be cut from the plant when mature and put into paper bags for further drying, again in a warm dry place.

Stored seed requires an environment of low humidity and preferably low temperature for long term viability. Equally important is that the environment remain fairly constant, without major fluctuations.

Once seed is correctly dried and packaged, seed can be stored in the refrigerator for long term or increased viability.

It is always important to correctly label stored seed as to variety, date and year of harvest. Unlabelled and unrecognizable seed has to be either thrown out, or grown out to determine its true identity.

Thank you Paul for delivering this excellent paper. Paul is, amongst other things, a chili collector who is very generous with his collection and his time.



REQUESTS

PLEASE WRITE DIRECTLY TO THE PERSON REQUESTING AND LET THEM KNOW YOUR CONDITIONS OF SWAP OR SALE.

PAUL GARDNER, 6 Channel Rd., Merbein 3505. Australian native mints and basil. Australian native *Solanum* species especially "bush tomato" and mountain kangaroo apple *Solanum linearifolium*. Black Nightshade *Solanum nigrum* I would like seeds of large sweet fruits of wild plants for experimental crossing to produce large fruits.

MRS NORMA CLAPP, Box 57 Peterborough 5422. Basil, dark opal purple.

LYN GRIMES, "Jindawarra" M.S. 322 Gayndah

OTHER SEEDS

Over the years plants other than vegetables have been creeping into the Network. It is time to formally recognize and adopt them. We would like to have the emphasis on useful species e.g. an exceptional strain of fodder tree, a fruit tree doing well in extreme conditions (an avocado bearing in Tasmania or a lychee in Adelaide) a rare medicinal plant, an endangered plant, plants unpalatable to animals as hedge species etc. However let's not preclude flowers whose beauty simply sustains us. Feel free to write to us at Seed Savers and tell us that you have located such plants and to include them in your Offers listing next year.

4625. Potatoes - different varieties. Tree dahlia cuttings.

GWEN HOOKWAY, 15 Apollo Drive, Andergrove, 4740. Turk's Cap Pumpkin. Ironbark Pumpkin. Warted Hubbard Squash. Telephone Peas. Stratagen Peas. Manchester Carrot. Cabbage Early Ball. Brown Beauty Beans. New Guinea Butter Bean (all of these requests were at some time sold by Yates). Also Bambara ground nut.

A.L. DUNNING, RMB 3220 Euroa 3666. Quandong seeds, Potato Onions, Salt Bush.

BILL MOLLISON, Box 1 Tyalgum 2484. Black Pepper *Piper nigrum*

WAL BERGMAN, 60 Investigator Street, Andergrove, MacKay 4740. Bulbs of large type of shallots which could have been called Giant Russian.

JIM BREITKREUTZ, Port Alma Rd., Bajool 4699. Windsor Black Pumpkin

KEN CHELSWORTH, Terania Creek Rd., The Channon 2480. Japanese Yam which can be eaten raw.

NOEL FALK 17 Fairway Street, Para Hills 5096. Beans: Goward Special, Tweed Wonder, Wellington Wonder Staley Surprise. Runner Beans: named varieties. Cauliflower: Green Glaze which is aphid resistant. Tomato: Devlin's Choice (Pearsons), Tatura Dwarf Globe, Break-O-Day.

MRS W. GEORGE, "Tempe" 20 Mary Valley Rd., Gildora 4570. We are looking for a Horse Chestnut seedling tree.

JULIE FIRTH, Lot 12 David Rd., Waggarakine, Geraldton 6530. Soap pod tree *Acacia concinna* beautiful shampoo, Asian. Rosehips *Rosa rugosa* Turkish. Abyssinian or Arabian Tea *Catha edulis*, *Celastrus edulin* Capers *Capparis spinosa* from the Mediterranean. Mosquito Repellent Plant Indian/African *Hyrtus suaveolens*. Black Pepper Vine *Piper nigrum*. Petaya or Strawberry Pear *Cereus macrocarpa*. Wild Tobacco from nematode resistant stock *Solanum auriculatum*. Marula *Scerocarya birrea subsp caffra*.

MRS McCALLUM, 55 Forest Rd., Ferntree Gully 3156. New Zealand Yams [Oca *Oxalis tuberosum* Ed]

MICHEL PORCHER, Box 73 Gisborne 3437. Sea Kale *Crambe maritima*. Flageolet var. Chevrier Chinese artichoke *Stachys affinis* *S. tubifera* *S. sieboldii*, Potato Vitelotte red & black.

ROSE-MARIE LACHEREZ, Mt Nebo Rd., Mt Nebo 4520. Oca *Oxalis tuberosum*. Chufa *Cyperus esculentus*. Cassava *Manihot esculentus*. Kudzu *Pueraria lobata*. Fonio *Paspalum longiflorum*. Celtuce which is sometimes called asparagus lettuce; I used to grow it 10 years ago. Comtesse de Chambord Beans. Recette Peas. Thai Eggplant *Solanum torvum* called "Ma keua puong" P or pea eggplant because the fruits are very small and borne in clusters. Sea Kale *Crambe maritima*. Chinese artichoke or in French, Crosnes, *Stachys affinis*

or *S.tuberifera*. Bambara Groundnut *Voandzeia subterranea*. Good King Henry or Mercury *Chenopodium henricus bonicus*. *Scolymus Scolymus hispanica*.

NOLA LEAN, P.O.Box 7397 C.M.C. Bundall 4217. Perilla leaf. Chinese Yam. Aerial Potato *Dioscorea bulbifera* Imperate root. Psyllium seed. Senega. Coix fruit. Lycium fruit. Cinna mon tree.

WENDY CONNOLLY, Chain-O-Holes Mitchell 4465. A creeper that we knew simply as Queensland Creeper which was very dense and fast, and could stand any amount of heat and drought. It died down in winter and either re-shot from the base or came up easily from seed the next spring. The leaves were something like a holly leaf in shape only they were a bright lime green and soft. The fruit were like orange/red Chinese lanterns and were 1" to 2:" long and were full of flat round seeds. I have not seen them since chldhood on the western border.



ROOT TO SEED PRODUCTION

AND THREE GREAT WAYS TO EAT A RADISH

by Bill Mollison

Root crops (turnip, radish, carrot, parsnip, even potato) that also bear seed can be to a great extent pre-selected from the roots themselves, even part-cooked or tasted providing no more than a third of the root is eaten. Top-trimmed and left to callous, or ash-dipped, the selected roots can be re-planted in spring for growing on to seed. Even cabbage and all the brassicas can be treated in this way when selecting individual plants for propagation.

It gives us the opportunity to choose plants with only sound, well-shaped and/or tasty roots to go to seed. Heavier seed set is recorded where no more than a quarter of the root is pruned. With some of the brassicas, seed may be produced only where air temperatures remain at about 5°C or less for 6-8 weeks. Therefore seed production is confined to upland or cool temperature areas in these species. Where selected root stock is planted and ill-formed or ill-developed roots rejected, the method of seed production is called "root to seed" (versus seed to seed of the open grown crop where all root stocks are left in the field).

Also note that radish tops are an excellent green vegetable, high in calcium, iron, vitamin C and vitamin A. They are the richest leafy vegetable source of vitamin A. They form a good combination with rice. The protein con-

tent of the leaf is also excellent.

Both leaf and root of the large white radishes are normally wilted, then fermented under pressure in cans or pits where they are a staple part of the diet in Nepal, Japan & China. This adds B vitamins from their natural yeasts.

As the seed oils contain tocopherols, they act as anti-oxidants or delay rancidity in any other oils or fats and are used as stabilizers in pickles and edible oils, also as part of mustard oils and mustards.

Very little oriental radish is eaten "unprocessed" by ferment.

Bill is writing a book which may be called "The Permaculture Cookbook" and which describes ways of processing food naturally from around the world and how that adds nutritional value to it.

INTRODUCTION TO PERMACULTURE

This new book is like an update on *Permaculture I* and *II* and includes many of the concepts and illustrations in *The Designer's Manual*. It has been adapted by Reny Slay from Bill Mollison's writings and is suitable for high school students.

Chapter headings are: permaculture principles, broadscale site design, structures, the home garden, orchards, farm-forestry & grain crops, animal forage systems & aquaculture, and urban & community strategies.

The book is soft covered, has 300 pages, and measures 21cm by 38cm. The recommended price in book shops is \$29. Seed Savers has purchased a hundred copies and is selling them for \$25 post paid. See ordering details on page 24.

OFFERS

This is a list of gardeners who are offering the seeds, cuttings and tubers that they have saved themselves. They may have acquired the seeds from personal sources, or from seed companies, or from Seed Savers. Please look after these folk well by sending adequate postage. Sending large seeds, cuttings and tubers, and even a good selection of small seeds can be quite expensive, especially if a jiffy bag or similar sturdy packaging has to be purchased. We recommend that you err on the generous side as quite a bit of work goes into packaging and posting seeds.

Of those people who wrote to us about their experiences as offerers last year, most were content with the payment system and so we have retained the same system:-

1. In order to avoid the extra charges incurred on money orders and cheques, we formulated a value for seeds in stamps, as follows:

3 x 43c stamps for each sample of small seeds.

4 x 43c stamps for each sample of large seeds, e.g. corn and beans.

5 to 7 x 43c stamps for tubers or cuttings

2. Send a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope or the cost of the return postage including a sturdy envelope.

3. Include a nice covering letter.

Please note that L.Q. means limited quantity which means that the seeds are available only to those who offer in this list.

REMINDER TO THOSE OFFERING

Mark seed packets with

- * Your name and the town in/near where you live.
- * The original source of the seed stock.
- * Month and year of harvest.
- * Cultivation notes if possible/necessary.

Number of seeds to put in each packet:

- * Twenty five seeds is adequate for large seeds and around fifty for small; for corn and sunflowers one hundred seeds are necessary to maintain genetic variability.

NEW SOUTH WALES

KEN ALEXANDER, 15 Wandella Rd, Cobargo 2550. Red Indian Corn (SSN '89). *Tagetes lucida*. Horsetail (*Equisetum hiemalis*) root division L.Q. available to Dec.

R GEORGE, 41 Hoskings Cres, Kiama 2533. Zebra Climbing Bean (origin given by friend) vigorous grower, good yield L.Q.

BERNIE GARDNER, P O Box 274 Dorrigo 2453. Scarlet Runner Beans (Yates seeds since 1984, seed saved since then) large tasty bean, well suited to cool climates. L.Q. Available Sept-Dec.



CHERYL KING, 16 Northview Place, Mt. Colah 2079.
Tree Dahlia (origin Diggers Garden Club 4 years ago) sun lover, drought tolerant stem pieces L.Q.

DONALD CAIRNS, P O Box 193 Kiama 2533. Asparagus. Broccoli. Rainbow Chard (stalks coloured red, pink, orange, yellow, white). Sweetcorn (Tender and Sweet). All seeds have been bred each year in my garden min of 4 years, max of 11 years.

JULIE HANKS, "Spring Valley" Wisemans Creek 2795.
Honey Locust *Gleditsia tricanthos*. Trees around old cattle yards about 100 years old & still growing strong (some branches break off under weight of pod). Leguminous 20cm (or more) deciduous shade tree. Male & female trees are needed to produce seed pods up to 40cm long in autumn. Pods high in sugar, suitable & loved by stock when they fall during winter. Climate is cold tableland but possibly suited to elsewhere. After a long dry summer/autumn I noticed in autumn that with the rain, the grass around the trees grew quicker than elsewhere. Flowers inconspicuous. Tree often used as root stock for other *Gleditsias* (they have long thorns, useful as a living fence if pruned.)

JILLIAN CRANNY, M Rees Road, via Dorrig 2453.
Seven Year Scarlet Runner Bean (fast grower, needs trellis, red scarlet flowers). Zebra Bean SSN 1990 (good bearer, fat juicy beans) L.Q.

MARK SMITH, P O Box V38 Mt Druitt Village 2770.
Moreton Bay Chestnut (from a tree in the township of St Marys), very easily germinated. Available July - December.

BRIAN COULTON, Belstone, 14 Shaw Street, Yass 2582. Cosmos (Good cut flowers, long growing season, tolerate hot summer). Early Choice Sweet Pea (Yates seeds, now acclimatised to cold areas over 4 seasons). Salad Burnett (cucumber substitute in salads). Oregano. Ranunculus Seed (chill to aid germination). Pennyroyal (cuttings from our seed off parent plant from local nursery, root cutting, good ground cover, needs to be moist, insect repellent).

ALEX MACKENZIE, 151 Faulkner Street, Armidale 2350. Jerusalem Artichoke (incl seed). New Zealand Spinach (SSN). Mouse potatoes (SSN). Cos Lettuce (SSN brown & green). Barlotti (Grandad's) Bean. Blue Lake Bean (origin Phoenix Seeds). Callan Sweet Corn (Phoenix). Straight Eight Cucumber (Phoenix). Celeraic (Phoenix, white alabaster). Celpar (Thompson & Morgan, a parsley-like celery). Viking Sugar Pea (Broerson, L.Q.). Also Gingko & Paulownia (aut & winter only).

DAVID & BERYL JENKINSON, 18 Skenes Ave, Eastwood 2122. Cucumber (Mature fruit 4" to 6" Light green to dark green then yellow, possibly brought in from Asia 15 years ago, good cropper & can be kept compact by training & tip pruning runners). Snake Beans Climbing (known as string beans, 18" long 3/8" diam.. good cropper in Sydney, mauve flowers and bear for a long period).

JIM DAGG, Lot 16 Dalveen Road, Largs 2320. Rockmelon Californian Cream (R. & K. Lea). Rockmelon (Kolhoznic R. & K. Lea, green flesh). Rockmelon SSN#971 (Zarinthou, green flesh). Pumpkin (Buttercup from New Gippsland Seed Farm, dry with sweet yellow flesh, L.Q.).

ELIZABETH SHEARMAN, P.O.Box 118 Oberon 2787.
Comfrey and Artichoke roots.

HOWARD NICHOLSON, P O Box 83 Bundanoon 2578.
Scarlet Runner Bean (Black seed). Painted Lady Climbing Bean (brown & white seed, scarlet & white flower). Collards. Mizuna. Garlic Chives. Small leaved Feldsalat (corn salad). White Cynoglossum. *Omphalodes linifolia* (Venus' Navel Wort). Italian Parsley. Corn Salad (large leafed). Rocket (*Eruca sativa*). Celtsuce. Lovage. Honesty (*Lunaria annua*, mauve & white). Kale (Russian Red). *Calendula officinalis* (Pot marigold single orange). *Calendula officinalis* (Pot marigold touch of red). *Calendula officinalis* (Pot marigold Kablouna Gold). Scabious Annual/biennial (Mixed mauve, pink, white & red). L.Q. *Scabiosa stellata* (drumstick scabious).

SUE BINGHAM, Tunttable Falls via Nimbin 2480. Bath Sponge (*Luffa cylindrica*), from local seeds. Bottle Gourds (SSN), long trumpet. Chilacayote (SSN) L.Q. Aztec Corn, yellow, purple & orange, L.Q. Madagascar Lima Bean (SSN) L.Q. Spinach Amaranth (SSN) L.Q. Plain Parsley.

Mullein.

ROSS TINSON, North Curramore Rd, Jamberoo 2533. Scotia climbing bean (from "old" railway man at Kiama). Has been grown some years at different locations in Jamberoo Valley. A colourful black & white seed good French bean cropper over many weeks, generally up to 9 pickings. L.Q.

MARGARET ANDRESEN, For Glover's Community Garden Rozelle, 66 Austin Street, Lane Cove 2066. P.N.G. Snake Gourd, vigorous vine, fruit to 70cm but eat when small like zucchini. African Cucumber, spectacularly spiky, produces late in season.

MWYFANWY KING, Lot 17 Crooks Road, Mandalong 2264. Snow Pea, purple flower. I have grown it for 5 years, was given by another grower (origin unknown). 4-6' high. Same requirements as other snow peas. Avail all year.

DR DAVID MURRAY, 7 Acacia Ave, Gwynneville 2500. Dwarf Pea cultivar Melbourne Market origin Melbourne seed firm Law Somner in 1976, still one of the best peas for the home garden, with a succession of about 6 pods per plant. Snow Pea from David Kitchener's farm at Jamberoo in 1987, the whole pods are delicious lightly steamed. Wild Pea (*Pisum elatus*) from Sardinia, via Victorian Crops Research Institute at Horsham May 1980, a tall variety with purple flowers and small round seeds at maturity, the brown seedcoats harden and should be nicked with a razor blade before planting. David is the author of several books including "Advanced Methods of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology" and has written an article on the nutritional benefits of peas for Michael Boddy's Kitchentalk Newsletter; it should appear in the issue after next. To subscribe, write to Michael Boddy, Bugle Press, Scribble Rock via Binalong 2584.

IAN THOMPSON, 15 George Wilson Ave, Wee Waa 2388. Jerusalem Artichokes origin Wee Waa for many years at Harris's and then Thompsons, available June and July. Mandarin seeds from very old tree, prolific fruiting,

8-10 cm dia., thick skinned, very fleshy and tasty.

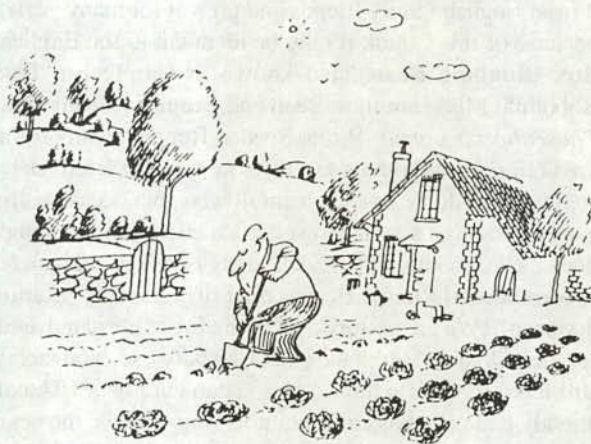
A.C.T.

SUSAN & JONATHAN BANKS, 10 Beltana Road, Pialligo 2609. Yellow Grosse Lisse Tomato (a sport that arose at Pialligo. Needs someone to develop it as tends to throw very colourless tomatoes as well as fine yellow ones, needs a long growing season). Three tomatoes from SSN: Deutscher Fleiss, Bonner Beste and Centenary. [Budwood and graftwood of apples are available- see Earth Garden article p.44 Spring 91- Eds]

VICTORIA

BETTY MASON, P.O. Box 241 Diamond Creek 3089. Northern Bush Pumpkin, origin SSN. *Hardenbergia violacea*, purple variety twining over ground and fence, origin self seeded plants; pink/lighter purple shrubby form to two metres. Evening Primrose origin Phoenix Seeds, yellow flowers, whole plant may be eaten, hardy, avail Aug. - Dec. Egyptian Brown Broad Beans origin Phoenix Seeds, grown at Wattle Glen for several years, small plant, very hardy, slice when young like beans or cook like broad beans when older L.Q. Ornamental Corn origin New Gippsland Seed Farm, grown at Wattle Glen for several years, multi-coloured, decorative value only L.Q.

WENDY MAYNE, 23 Robert St., Bentleigh 3204. I am able to offer Black Raddish, Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), Rocket (*Eruca vesicaria* - *E. sativa*) Pungent salad herb. Lovage (*Lewisticum officinale*) Strong celery flavoured



herb. Columbines (*Aquilegia vulgaris*) Old fashioned granny bonnets.. Love in the Mist (*Nigella damascena*) blue flowers, scented seeds. Freesia (bulbs) (*F. refracta*), o Original, creamy coloured.. There are a great number of herbs, may uncommon, in our garden and I am happy to give plants to anyone who cares to visit. (Phone first, please - 557 2215)

PETER RICHARDSON, 47 Maitland Street, Geelong West 3218. I've been in Japan for the past four years and have been growing some unusual vegetables (specific to the Kyoto area and significantly different to the usual Japanese varieties) such as aka-ninjin (scarlet carrot), gobo (edible burdock), mitsuba (honestwort or Japanese parsley) and ai (Japanese indigo- *Polygonum tinctorum*). I'd like to swap seeds of these for other unusual food-plant seeds particularly Australian natives and South East Asian varieties.

BILL HANKIN, "Wombat Bluff" W- Tree via Buchan 3885. Beans *Phaseolus vulgaris* : Purple King Climbing Bean Very prolific light brown seeded, good fresh or as a dry bean. "Lohrey's Special" climbing bean, very prolific from SSN in 89 grown in Tasmania for 50 years, beige with brown stripes, good eaten young when pods are tender L.Q. Yellow Butter Bean a.k.a. Wax Bean, has a slight frost resistance, black seeded, very prolific, does well in areas with cool nights L.Q. Yin Yang Bean this is my daughter's name for this climbing bean because of the markings on the dry seed, it is half white and half brownish purple; my father a keen gardener from Liverpool obtained it from English family friends and grew it for many years; because of this I think it may be identical to the English Box Climbing Bean (also known as Purple Buddha, Bobolink, Miss Hamilton Bean and Beautiful Bean) L.Q. *Phaseolus coccineus* White Seeded Runner Bean origin East Gippsland Organic Growers kept in the Bairnsdale area for over thirty years, cream flowers, but occasionally a seed produces scarlet flowers; excellent dry bean and does well in cool night areas like my own L.Q. Black & Brown Seeded Runner Bean scarlet flowers, very prolific dry bean. [We are going down to the East Gippsland area for their Organic Fair at the end of January - see you there! Bill has a long term aim to be a 'bean curator'; we have already had offers as chilli curators; this may be the next system that we set up in Seed Savers - Jude & Michel.]

MRS McCALLUM, 55 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully 3156. Greek Beans from B. Bladier Vic (tall variety, grows over a long season, beans thick and about 8" long). Canary Tongue Lettuce from L. Van Deven USA, loose leaf variety. Purple Calabash Tomato from USA, squatty burgundy shade of tomato with excellent flavour L.Q.

WINIFRED ALLEN, 506 Neil Street, Ballarat 3350. "I enjoyed offering and had no trouble with the payment part- nearly everyone was anxious to do the right thing (some sent along their seed as a present)." South Australian Silver Beet. Deutscher Fleiss Tomato. Muffet Bean, Rabbit's Ear Lettuce. Thessalonika Tomato (from Gordon Watson of Lilydale) good size with a beautiful sweet flavour, needs staking up, fruits mid season.

GRAEME G GEORGE, Blackwood Deering Avenue, Healesville 3777. Green Windsor Broad Bean (origin New Gippsland Seed Farm 1982, selected strain, green seeded, high proportion have 5 seeds per pod available January-June). Kipler Potato (long, thin, yellow fleshed European potato salad variety, cooks firm, selected for production of good sized tubers, can produce large numbers of very small tubers, origin friend's garden) Send \$3.00 cover postage. Available January - June. Rocambole (form of garlic with flower head of bulbils like tree onions, cloves keep longer than ordinary garlic available Jan - June).

A L DUNNING, RMB 3220 Euroa 3666. Tiny Giant Tomatoes SSN#448. Snake Beans (climbing). Gem Squash (SSN1988). Acorn Squash. Spaghetti Squash. Rabbit's Ear Lettuce. Tongan Beans (3 generations in family). Asparagus (Grandma's). Marble Peru (scented autumn flowering nocturnal perennial, Grandma's). Kiss-Me-Quick (white, Grandma's). REQUESTS Quandong seeds, Potato Onions, Salt Bush.

MARGARET PANTER, 7 Butterworth Street, Castlemaine 3450. Chinese Spinach (like bok choy, origin Yates). Broad Beans (tall plant, average yield 330g/plant, harvested over 4 year period, origin seeds bought to eat). Kale (Russian Red, leaf vegetable cabbage family, high in nutrients incl calcium, av. yield 300gm per plant, origin

Phoenix via Michel Porcher). Lettuce - Rabbit's Ear (non hearting, easy to grow) SSN #317. Parsley - Straight Leaf (self seeds easily) origin growing in my garden in Melbourne when I moved there in 1979. Peas - Heritage (edible podded, luxurious growth, av. yield 230g/plant, harvested over 3 week period, white flowers) origin SSN. Peas - Telephone (av. yield 120g/plant) origin Coopers. Shungiku (edible Crysanthemum leaves) origin SSN. Silverbeet (self seeds easily, likes warmth, moist condition with plenty of compost, best in autumn and spring) origin commercial seed 10 years ago - possibly Fordhook Giant, but may have crossed with beetroot. Tomato - Bush (moderate flavour, medium size fruit, compact, sturdy, low growing) origin plants bought in nursery in c. Tomato - Red Prolific (very good flavour, mainly medium size fruit) origin self sown 1990. Tomato - Yellow Oxheart (very good flavour, very sweet, low acidity, medium - large fruit, fairly spindly, weak plant origin farm near Gladstone). Broccoli Calabrese - small heads, can keep harvesting for at least a year after picking main head, likes cooler weather, origin Eden Seeds.

PETER DENNY, 38 Nathan Dve, Bacchus Marsh 3340. Bush Beans Beanette, (very good bearer, pencil thickness, top taste) origin Goodmans seed in Bairnsdale, L.Q. Butter Beans, (quick heavy bearer); origin Phoenix seeds, grown since 1989, L.Q. Broad Beans, (dwarf prolific, grows well in windy areas) origin Hortico, grown since 1988. Tomatoes: Graf Zeppelin, (SSN) (top taste, smaller fruit). Bonner Best, (SSN) (top taste, smaller fruit). Dudain (SSN) (smaller fruit). Grosse Lisse (SSN - saved since 1930 by L. Robertson, Frankston, top taste). Heinz 1370 (SSN), (firm large). Grosse Rotte (SSN), (firm large). Riverside (SSN), (exc. taste, larger tomato). Mama Lucia (SSN), (bearing heavily here). Deutscher Fleiss (SSN), (smaller fruit, exc. taste). Rouge de Marmande, (French variety, early mature, exc. in cooler areas, exc. flavour) origin Hortico, grown here since 1988. Baby Carrots, (Exc tasting, small) origin Hortico, grown here since 1988. Cauliflower, Pale Face, (5 months to maturity) origin Phoenix.

PAUL GARDNER, 6 Channel Rd, Merbein 3505. I am currently planning to move to northern NSW so cannot promise prompt answers to requests as I will be away periodically during 1991. I have a large collection of 200

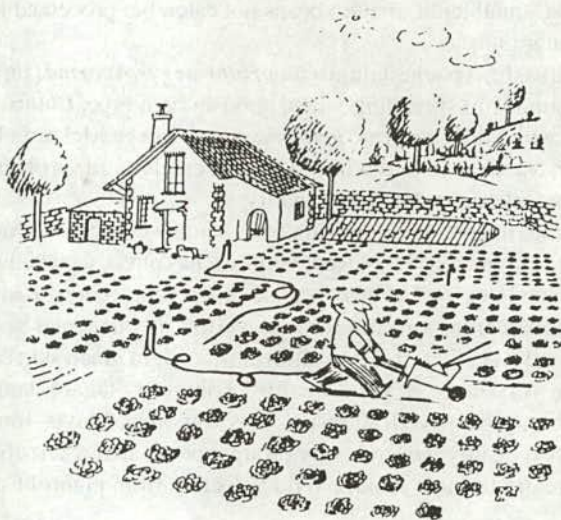
hot chillies and 30 eggplant varieties. Any subscribers who can isolate, or better still cage plants against cross-pollination, could help with backup growouts and is welcome to write. I would also like to hear from gardeners with 100% frost free sites to grow some of the long season tropical varieties.

All seed (except otherwise noted) available now but in L.Q., which means for people who are also offering in this newsletter. Basil- Mexican Spice from Peace Seeds similar to Cinnamon Basil, purple flowers very nice scent. Sacred Tulsi Basil *Ocimum sanctum* from Kings Seeds companion planting around the ashram etc., pretty scented plants. Mrs Burns Lemon Basil. Mayo Yaqui Basil "medicinal" variety. Camphor Basil.

Oregano Scented Lavendar *Lavendula multifida*.

Capsicums & Chillies [these do cross so isolate by 100m, bag the flowers or grow only one-Ed]. Sinahuisa Chili commercially grown variety from Mayo Indian commune, similar to Serrano. Fuzzy leaves, small hot fruit, good used fresh for salsa etc. Tabiche, variable 23" thin, fairly hot fuzzy plants, good dried. Violette Sweet, nice blocky 3-4 lobed fruit, purple maturing to red. Manzano Amarillo *Capsicum pubescens* from Zapotecs. Oaxaca Mexila via J L Hudson. perennial fuzzy shrubs or small trees to 3.5m, may live 15 years frost sensitive 12" thick yellow fruit hot, hot. Reduce by removing seeds and attachment. L.Q.

Purple Tomatillo *Physalis Ixocarpa* or *Physalis subglabrata* small fruit, purple throughout, sweeter than



green variety, store easily and well, used in Mexican cuisine.

Tomato Jahmato Banana/Pear. large red pear shaped fruit, salad or paste, good type, has the long spindly vines of paste types, need to keep fruit off the ground. Yellow Egg from SSN pale yellow pear shaped fruit. Yellow Wendy SSN small medium round flattish fruit. Eggplant Bruinima Productt SSN, small medium round good flavour good yield. Altajskij Urozajnij SSN small - medium round flattish fruit. Wild Tomato SSN probably not a true "wild" tomato, the fruits are 2.54cm, good quality, prolific. May be good for sun drying. Mr. Stripy Thompson & Morgan, attractive striped fruit good bearing vigorous. Homestead 500 SSN, large vigorous plants large red fruit, sometimes yellow variants. Big Mexican SSN. Mexican Beefsteak SSN. Banana Shaped SSN elongated paste type, interesting shape.

Eggplant: Banana Green or Louisiana Long Green SSN (USA) via Gene Traewick. 15-18cm long, 5cm diam, light apple green with darker green stripes. Sweet Jade Phoenix Seeds, white flower, rounded fruit, apple green maturing to yellow.

Black Seeded Cow Pea *Vigna unguiculata* from Asian food stores, bush habit, stringless, small black beans dry, probably as agricultural variety but has continuous set if picked regularly. Green beans are excellent and fried beans very flavoursome.

Zebra Italian relatives - similar to other Zebra Beans. Guar/Cluster Bean *Cyamopsis tetragonoloba*, interesting bush, pea-like plant. beans eaten at snowpea stage. Seed like small lentil, mature beans not eaten but processed for Guar gum.

Squash: Apache Giant *Cucurbita argyrosperma*, large round fruit spreading vines, good storage type. Calabaza Castilla del Carmen *Cucurbita pepo* George McLaughlin Jr, Mexico, ribbed white skin, extremely hard, probably long storage type, good quality.

Watermelon, all originating from south west USA/Mexico Desert Indians: Hopi Red, variable, has already picked up some Hopi Yellow genes, good type. Hopi Yellow, native seed search, variable orange-yellow inside, med size, good type. Desert King, yellow inside, light green skin can be very large & good quality. Tohono O'Dham, small oblong fruit, yellow inside. Las Capomas Mayo, small good quality red from very drought prone area where they are dry farmed. Arikira Wild Selection from plants of the

southwest, football size, white -pink inside, seedy, not as sweet as others but pleasant to eat. Casaba/Honeydew, a store bought fruit a few years ago, yellow skin, bright green inside, round, incredibly sweet.

Maize, yellow Sweet Dimase from A. Dimas, I think this is a commercial sweetcorn, beautiful cobs, hard kernels. Maize, multicoloured, very beautiful cobs, normal to larger sized, good grinding for colourful flour, usually pink-purple. Corn, Red Aztec Phoenix Seeds, grinds to pink-red flour. Corn, Hopi Blue SSN, soft corn flour grinding to blue. Soft enough to chew and eat.

Wild Luffa *Luffa operculata* small 5cm originally native seeds/SEARCH. Marigold *Tagetes* spp garden origin, small bush various colours good companion plants. Okra *Hibiscus esculentus/Abelmoschus esculenta* Alison & Bernia Murato, mixture of a couple of strains, large productive plants. Okra Pink *H.esculentus/A.Esculentus* from a Greek okra grower, similar to burgundy-red types but pods are pink. Rat Tail Radish Peace Seeds, grown for the 10"+ seed pods to eat, roots inedible.

All seeds are in limited quantity.

REQUESTS Australian native mints and basil. Australian native *Solanum* species especially "bush tomato" and mountain kangaroo apple *Solanum linearifolium*. Black Nightshade *Solanum nigrum* I would like seeds of large sweet fruits of wild plants for experimental crossing to produce large fruits.

MRS SHIRLEY MOORE, 20 McLaren Street, Mt. Waverley 3149. Perennial Bean Scarlet Runner, (in my garden for many years). *Amaranthus caudatus*, (2m tall, striking). Magenta, (long - to 18", clusters of flowers, in family for years). Parsley seed - Plain Leaf (may have crossed with Curly Leaf) origin New Gippssland seed farm several years ago. Parsley, (seed fresh & germinates quickly, very large plants this year, grown next to curly leaf so may have crossed). Scarlet Runner Beans, (do well if summer not too hot, leaves need to be sprayed a couple of time a day in hot weather).

BETTY SINGH, Dykes Road, Dollar via Mirboo North 3871. Loquat tree seeds. Chicory, (Winter lettuce type). Tamarillo, (red). Peas, (with pink flowers). Tomato,

Kralowa, yellow, Hungarian, prolific in cool climates.

MARY MICHAUX, 8 Allambi Street, Ashwood 3147. Snail creeper. Yellow Aquilegia. Tweedia. Yellow Cosmos. (Scabiosa); origin from Barrie Waters Qld. Tweedia Coerulea, (small shrub) oblong shaped leaves, blue flowers). Climbing Lily, (orange colour) origin Lake Nursery, L.Q. White turnip. Rabbits Ear Lettuce, L.Q. Origin SSN. Oakleaf Lettuce. Peppers, (small red). Rockmelon. Native Hibiscus, (yellow petals, wine centre, small plant).

BILL NICHOLSON, 16 Kirriemuir Street, Hamlyn Heights, 3215. Foetid Marigold (*Dyssodia papposa*), supposed to repel many bugs from surrounding plants, grows to 12", small leaves & orange flowers, annual, spring planted, common weed to New Mexico, grows slowly in Victoria, really stinks! L.Q. avail now, origin Ms Wilde c/- W George Waters, Editor, Pacific Horticulture, 1914 Napa Avenue, Berkeley CA 94707.

QUEENSLAND

MRS ESTHER YOUNG, Ironpot Road, Kumbia 4610. Madagascar Beans (shell & cook when just mature, freeze well without blanching, grown for 4 years) L.Q.

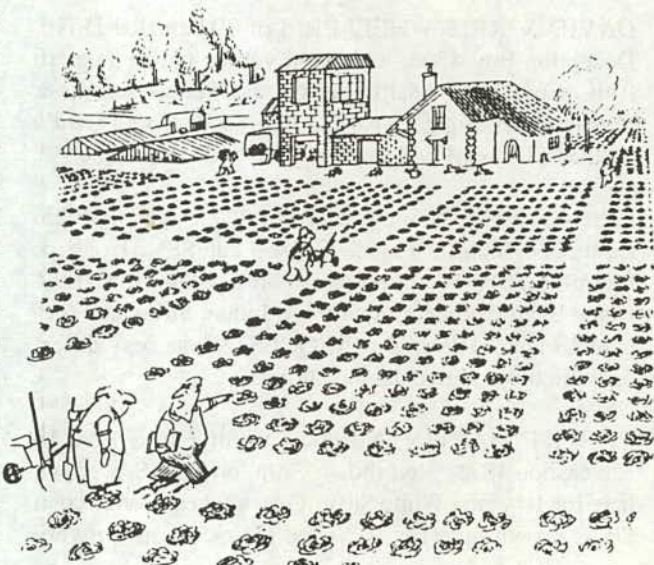
BERNIE SMITH, P O Box 467 Beaudesert 4285. Pak Choy (Chinese cabbage from Yates oriental garden pack). *Tagetes minuta* (Stinking Roger, keeps nematodes away from plants). *Podocarpus elatus* (Plum Pine, native tree with edible fruit). L.Q.

ROGER & GIULIA GOEBEL, Box 153 Mourilyan Nth Qld 4858. All limited quantity meaning available only to other people offering in the newsletter. Kang kong *Ipomea aquatica* (green leaf veg., watervine). Long Bean (cooked veg., vine). Jack Bean (cooked veg., bush/vine). Egg Plant (cooked veg., bush). Jakfruit (starchy veg., tree avail mostly summer). Peach Palm (starchy veg., fresh salad veg., tree avail mostly autumn). Sweet Leaf (green leaf veg., bush 2m). Amaranth (green leaf veg., bush 2m). Wing Bean (green leaf veg., fresh salad veg., cooked veg., vine, avail mostly autumn). Cos Lettuce (fresh salad veg., small herb). Cherry Tomato (flavouring, fresh salad veg., 1m bush or vine). Chilli (flavouring, bush 1m). Capsicum

(flavouring or fresh salad veg., bush 1m). Okra (fresh salad veg. or cooked, bush 1m). Ceylon Spinach (fresh salad veg. or green leaf veg., vine). Jicama Yam Bean (starchy veg., vine). Plantain (starchy veg., flavouring, herb 4m). Tamarind (flavouring, tree, avail autumn). Curry Leaf (flavouring, tree). Drumstick Tree (cooked veg. or green leaf veg., tree). Papaw (cooked veg., fresh fruit or flavouring, tree herb).

[These next ones are propagated vegetatively and would require a fair amount of postage; perhaps contact the Goebels on 070 63 25 26 first to find out the charges- Eds] Tumeric (flavouring, herb 2m). Taro (Green leaf veg., starch veg., 1-2m herb). Cassava (starchy veg., bush 2m). Sweet Potato (green leaf veg., starchy veg., Vine). Pit Pit (starchy veg., cooked veg., herb 3m avail autumn). Lemon Grass (flavouring, herb 1m). Chaya (green leaf veg., bush 2m). Yam (starchy veg., vine). Coconut (flavouring, cooked veg. or fresh salad, tree). Chinese Water Chestnut (starchy veg. or fresh salad veg., water herb 2m avail autumn to spring). Breadfruit (starchy veg., tree avail mostly summer). Schallot (flavouring, fresh salad veg., cooked veg., small herb). Aibika (green leaf veg., fresh salad veg., bush 2m).

Note: starchy vegetable = potato-like. Coconut & Peach Palm the growing tip (cabbage) is of use as a crisp salad vegetable called Heart of Palm. Harvesting this kills the plant. All plants are in limited quantities.



GWEN HOOKWAY, MacKay Organic Growers, 15 Apollo Drive, Andergrove 4740. N.G MARROW BEAN #839 (grows to 1 m, best eaten young, similar in growth to gourd) L.Q origin brought from N.G. to Seaforth Qld early 1950 by Government Horticulturist. Mustard Lettuce #842 (leaf light green with frilled edge, hardy plant, adds flavour to salads) L.Q origin Brisbane Organic Growers 1990. Winged Bean #840 (also known as Hasbin, all parts edible - leaves, small pods, seeds eaten raw when fresh, one variety grows small potato-like tubers on roots, when cooked with meat they taste like new potatoes) L.Q. Tropical N.G Striped Snake Bean (pale green with dark green stripes, eat when young, grow to 1m long, summer crop). Capsicum (small perennial, red fruit 1 1/2" all year, pest free, could be miniature bell). Capsicum (perennial, red 3", pest free) origin USA. White Egg Plant (perennial, fruits all year) origin USA. Chinese Mustard Spinach *Brassica juncea* (tender leaf on an off-white crisp stem) origin Yates. Continuous Lettuce (non-hearting, large leaves with a touch of brown, slow to bolt, grows all year from Nov to April, best picked regularly). Paw Paw Pumpkin (large oblong, striped, sweet flesh, good keeper). REQUESTS Turk's Cap Pumpkin. Ironbark Pumpkin. Warty Hubbard Squash. Telephone Peas. Stratagen Peas. Manchester Carrot. Cabbage Early Ball. Brown Beauty Beans. New Guinea Butter Bean (all requests were at some time sold by Yates).

DAVID & KRIS WHEELER, Lot 39 Jamaica Drive, Deception Bay 4508. Common yellow papaw (superb fruit, heavy crop, healthy no disease, requires male & female trees) origin 3 year old tree, seeds from David's mother's Clontarf Qld tree 3-4 years old at that time.

LYN GRIMES, "Jindawarra" MS 322 Gayndah 4625. Lettuce - Rabbit's Ear & Loose Leaf SSN. Ironbark Pumpkin SSN. Watermelon Moon & Stars SSN. L.Q. Black Bean (cabinet timber tree). Indian Sirius tree (deciduous tree 20-25' high). REQUESTS Potatoes - different varieties and tree dahlia cuttings.

ROBERT MARTIN, Northern Light Farm, Box 18 Ravenshoe 4872. Red Indian Corn, origin USA, grown here for 10 years. White Silver Queen Sweet Corn, origin USA, grown here for 10 years. (These corns are very

hardy, keep and store well, grow in almost any climate, space at least 6" apart, grow to 10', feed well) L.Q. Avail July to Christmas. Winged Beans (climbers to 10' high, 33% protein and leaves are edible too).

MRS WENDY CONNOLLY, Chain-O-Holes, Mitchell 4465. Spring Onions (big bunching strong plants, multiply well, perennial) L.Q. origin uncertain - grown by our family for years. Poor Man's Beans (from my mother's vine, at least 3 years old, shoots out from base after frost each year, one vine would have no trouble feeding a family) L.Q.

DAVID J WATTS, P O Box 70 Biggenden 4621. Ceylon Spinach tropical (good for warm-hot areas, will not bolt like ordinary spinach, eat raw or cooked). Chinese Snake Beans (climbing 1.2m vine, long cropping bean, good for hot climates). Madagascar Bean (crops until frost, lives for a few years).

BOB RAABE, M/S 546 Forest Hill 4342. Blue Pumpkin (small vines approx 5-7m diam, good keeping qualities, plant after last frost) origin Luck family approx. 25 years.

BERYL SHARRY, 4 Baringa Street, Clontarf 4019. Muffet Climbing Bean SSN #188c (good growth for sub-tropics, susceptible to bean fly during Summer) L.Q.

GORDON REHBEIN, Box 98 Jandowae 4410. Pie Melon (green seeded pie melon, Mum says it's the best variety for jam) origin grown by the family for many years.

GORDON CAMPBELL, Cabbagetree Road, Mackay 4740. Giant of Stuttgart (climbing bean, very large bean, excellent flavour) origin New Gippsland Seed Farm.

BERNIE SMITH, P O Box 467 Beaudesert 4285. Pak Choy (Chinese cabbage) origin Yates Oriental Vegetable garden pack. Stinking Roger Tagetes *minuta* (keeps nematodes away from plants good companion plant). Plum Pine *Podocarpus elatus* (native tree with edible fruit, grows here as a rain forest tree). L.Q. all offers.

JOHN MAUCLINE, Lot 15 Crystal Waters MS16 Maleny 4552. Pigeon Pea SSN. Edible Cow Pea SSN. Guada Bean SSN. Yellow Tomato #092 SSN. Adzuki

Bean from Eden Seeds. All L.Q.

HAROLD SCHOLLES, Claremount, Beerwah 4519. Fred's Pumpkins, which are from this area where I have grown them for 35 years. They have proved to be immune to powdery mildew and highly resistant to all diseases. Cherry Tomatoes, which were growing wild when we came here in 1952.

WAL BERGMAN, 60 Investigator Street, Andergrove, Mackay, 4740. Dwarf Bush Beans- Redland Pioneer, Redland Winter, Redland Autumn, Goodwins Purple Seed, Goodwins Small White Seed, Goodwins Barlotti Striped Seed, Wandin Resistant. Climbing Snake Beans from Mrs Edna Law. Katjang Panjang a climbing snake from SSN originally brought back from Malaya by a returning POW in 1945. Tongan Lab Lab long purple pod. REQUESTS Bulbs of large type of shallots which could have been called Giant Russian.

R. HAMILTON, Gladys Downs Injune 4454. California Cream rock melon. Jap Pumpkin. Snake Bean (brown seed). Green Apple Cucumber. Mauve Wisteria tree.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MRS NORMA CLAPP, Box 57 Peterborough 5422. Seeds available now. Dwarf English lavender *Lavendula munstead* (grown for 11 years) origin Meadow Herbs. Coriander (grown for 11 years) origin Meadow Herbs. Queen Anne's Lace *Daucus carota* origin Diggers Seeds. Casuarina tree (local, grows in rocky windswept areas). Seeds available from January 1992. Dill (11 years) origin Mother's garden. Calendula (single yellow) origin my garden 18 years. Sunflower (many small flower heads on each plant) origin my garden 18 years. Round Leaf Wattle *Acacia rotundifolia* (local, round leaf wattle, small bush, suitable for gardens). REQUESTS Dark Opal Basil (purple)

ANNIE ERNST, P O Box 103 Yacka 5470. Parsley & Calendula or English Marigold (hardy, good in dry areas, self-sows well) L.Q. origin of both is a rented house near beach in Adelaide 1987, grown one other place in Adelaide plus 2 places in mid-North of S.A., not including where friends & acquaintances are growing it. Florida

Market Eggplant (hardy, fairly wind tolerant, had a decent water supply although water was a bit salty, long bearer, have had problems with aphids in past with other varieties when plants were very close together - these had no pests or disease and we gave them plenty of room, grown one year at Booborowie in S.A. mid-North) L.Q. origin Phoenix. Perpetual Lettuce (great for small families who don't use a lot of lettuce, harvest when you need, doesn't form head, doesn't go bitter like other lettuce do and best of all, does not bolt to seed) L.Q. origin SSN grown for 2 years at 2 sites in mid-North of S.A.

KATH LEA, RMB 15 Minlaton 5575. I am not sending in a big list of seeds for the Spring Catalogue this year. Most of the seeds I have offered have probably been requested by most people who wanted them, but you could put in our name and address with a note saying most of the varieties listed in the last 2 years' catalogues are still available if needed. [Over 40 varieties were offered - if you do not have spring newsletters from the last two years and particularly want tried and true South Australian strains, send enough stamps to cover a good cross section of the Lea's collection - they are excellent. Include plenty of postage for potatoes - Eds.] By next year, there should be some new varieties to offer again.

ROBIN BLESING, P O Box 331 Victor Harbour 5211. Chinese Cabbage. Honeysweet Corn. Silverbeet with pale pink stems which is delicious and easy to grow. Love-In-The-Mist.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SHIRLEY ROWLAND, 70 Clarence Way, Westfield 6112. Bok Choy (Chinese spinach, pest free, easy to grow, cool weather plant) origin donated to OGA seedbank, originally from Phoenix, avail Oct onwards. Telephone Pea (tall growing, crops over long period) origin local stock feed agency. Avail Oct onwards. Sweet Potato cuttings (orange flesh, grows like a weed in frost-free, sandy soil) origin local supermarket 2 years ago. Avail Oct & then Dec onwards.

C T JACKMAN, Lot 372 Jarrahdale Road, Jarrahdale 6203. Muffet Bean (Easy to grow, long growing season, will grow to good size without becoming stringy to eat) origin SSN #188. Avail until gone L.Q.

TASMANIA

GRAEME M KERRISON, 227 Weld Street, Beaconsfield 7270. Best of All runner beans. Muffet Beans L.Q. Scarlet Emperor Runner Beans. Kentucky Wonder Beans L.Q.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

ANN WELLARD, P O Box 40001 Casuarina 0811. Pigeon Pea (regarded as annual in tropics, self sows, use as pea when pods still green, can be used as cattle fodder, pretty yellow flowers) origin bought at a garden fair approx 1985/86. Avail July/Aug/Sept L.Q.

SEED SAVERS' BANK

If you cannot find what you need in the above lists, maybe we can help. We have many fine beans, tomatoes, and lettuces, and good quantities of pumpkins, watermelons, rockmelons, cucumbers, eggplants, capsicums, and squash; we are low on brassicas, peas, root vegetables and cereals.

Send a self-addressed stamped envelope, and let us know what types of seeds you need. If you would like large seeds like corn pumpkins and beans then please send a 70c stamp too. **Stop Press:** Eleocharis bankcroftii seeds just came in - Nth Qld nut, tastes like coconut.

SUPPLYING SEEDS TO EDEN

by Alf Finch

Whilst I don't believe there is a conspiracy to take over the world seed supply, there are many dangers to our old traditional vegetable varieties. Changes to corporate structure and the development of new patented hybrids protected by P.V.R. mean that varieties are continuing to be dropped.

Some companies who traditionally held open pollinated seeds are suddenly dropping them completely.

Eden Seed wishes to buy reliable seed for distribution Australia-wide. Top prices are paid for small or large quantities. As Eden Seed cannot grow any further varieties because of time constraints, growers who would undertake to continue to supply for distribution to other growers are most sought after.

Only if we grow the old traditional varieties and spread the seed to others, will they continue to be available. The main areas of concern have always been for brassicas (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli), corn, vine crops (including cucumber, melon, pumpkin, zucchini), and spinach. Now, more than ever, others are being hybridized to gain patent protection, including carrots and onions.

There appears to be only one reason for these new hybrids: - increased company profits from P.V.R. protected patents. We all have a role to play in keeping the open pollinated varieties in use.

If everyone saves one variety for distribution to others, the problem will be solved. This reminder is brief, for further information or a catalogue, write to Alf Finch, Eden Seeds, MS 316 Gympie 4570. (074) 865230.

SUPPORTERS

Foundation: Bill Mollison, Sally Smith, Neil Walker, Carmelo Casella, Jenni Edgerly and friends, A.J. Whyte, Frances Durdin, Susan & Jonathan Banks, Mrs B. R. Clapp, Irma Dixon, Aine, Ann Schilmoller, Jim & Dorothy Burns, anon, Martha Paitson, Wilma Bowers, Camille & Alan Thomas, Lionel Fifield, Franklin Scarf, K. Berkley, N. Jeffreson, Alfredo Bonanno, Dr. David Murray, Kevin Glucina, Ian McNicol, Mary Horan and Edna Kiss have donated \$300, or a great deal of their time to the long term goals of this project.

Associate: Julian Bamping, Andrew Jeeves, Homeland Foundation, Michael Self, Jacqui Fithall, Frederico, Fay Roth, Dr M. Harris, Jim Campbell, Zimbabwe Institute of Permaculture, Sally-Anne Daikis & Chris Wisby, Alf Finch, Jenni Jenkins, Jacquie Wright, Vivienne Duncan, Sean Hughes, Anne Bolitho, Karin Mears, Clive Blazey, Lionel Pollard, Julie Mozsny, Jerry Rogers and an anonymous Dee Why resident have given \$100, or their time towards the better running of the Network.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by Jude Fanton

Keeping records of what you are planting for seed saving is essential and as the Network grows we see the need for the gathering of more information about our seeds. We have found that labelling plants or blocks of plants not only helps us to keep tabs on their names, but means

continued next page.....

NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS AND / OR RENEWALS

Please tick the appropriate box

☐

\$15 p.a.

Name:

☐

\$7.50 p.a.
in the second
year if you offer
seeds in the
newsletter or
send bulk seeds
to the seed bank

.....

Address:

☐

\$30 supportive
subscription for
professionals

.....

Postcode:

☐

\$100 associate
membership

What is your expertise
occupation/experience?

☐

\$300 foundation
life membership

.....

☐

Donation to the
Trust

.....

The Seed Savers' Network: Box 975, Byron Bay 2481

ANNUAL GATHERING

Yes, I am interested in coming to Byron Bay for
the weekend of Nov 30-Dec 1

Name

Address

The Seed Savers' Network: Box 975, Byron Bay 2481

SHOW OFF YOUR GARDEN

I have a garden that journalists can come and see,
and/or I would be prepared to talk to them.

Name

Address

The Seed Savers' Network: Box 975, Byron Bay 2481

3 BOOKS FOR SALE

SHATTERING

(reviewed page 5)

\$20 plus postage and handling
\$5 NSW
\$7 Qld & Vic
\$8 SA, WA, Tas, & NT

INTRODUCTION TO PERMACULTURE

(reviewed page 12)

\$25 post paid all States

SEED SAVING MANUAL

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Order Form

Please send me a copy, (or copies) of



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when you are showing visitors around especially if they are large and legible enough for others to read for themselves.

Over the years Michel and I have experimented with many types of labels and below is an appraisal of their performance.

If you keep meticulous records of the layout of your beds and the whereabouts of each variety, you may never feel the need for a label. Those of you who keep a gardening diary should record the Seed Savers number for each variety along with other planting details.

* One or two litre ice-cream containers cut into strips: can be written on with a pencil, are cheap, recycled and hardy, however their small size means they are easily lost especially in a well mulched garden.

* Matte surfaced tags that are available at garden stores:- these have the advantage that they can be written on with a pencil, but they have the disadvantage of being a small size.

* Tall labels that have a large rectangle sitting back at 45 degrees are used in some seed breeding institutions such as the C.S.I.R.O. and these have the advantage that they can be written on with a pencil.

* Wooden sticks which can be either written on with texta or pencil, or painted with house paint. A more durable item.

Finally, the choice of writing implement is important. We have found that the spirit pens, that are sold as indelible, fade in strong sun, so we have reverted to using a soft pencil.

Cut Here

Cut Here

ANNUAL GATHERING

NOVEMBER 30 - DEC 1

SATURDAY / SUNDAY

Free to Subscribers

This year's Annual Gathering
of Seed Savers' will be held in Byron Bay.

There will be guest speakers on:

Bush Foods

Permaculture

Seed Saving

Politics of Genetic Resources

&

Organic Farming

If you can talk about something earthy, please write to us.

Slideshows, Videos, etc, are welcome

If you need accommodation, fill in the coupon on page 23, and return it to us soon.

We will send full details in response to your coupon.

COME WITH YOUR SEED

Contact: Jude & Michel Fanton ph. 066 856624

*Thanks to Kay Lammers (066 857 878) for her Cover Art
Mark Collinson (066 841490) for layout and typesetting,
and Sempe for the cartoon illustrations*

RENEWALS

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