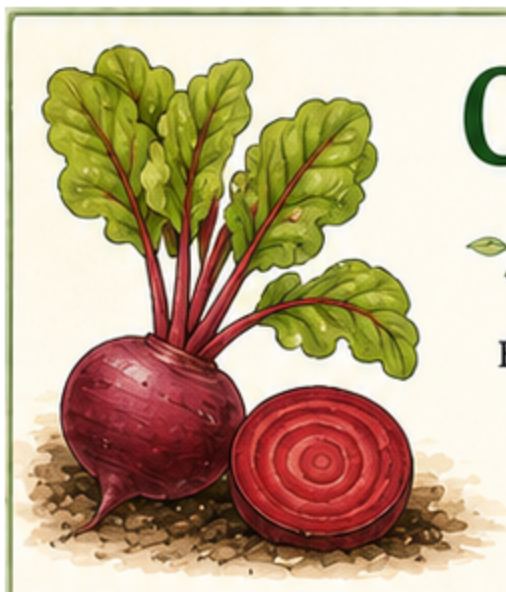


Collecting Beet Seeds

Save Today for Next Year's Harvest!

Beets are biennial plants, which means they grow leaves and roots the first year, then produce flowers and seeds the second year. Saving your own beet seeds is easy and rewarding!

THE BEET SEED JOURNEY

Year 1 – Growth

Plant beet seeds. Enjoy the roots and greens all season.

Year 2 – Seed Production

Leave a few healthy beets in the ground over winter. In spring, they will grow tall stems, flower, and set seeds.

HOW TO HARVEST BEET SEEDS

1 SELECT PLANTS

Choose healthy, disease-free beets late in the season and leave them in the ground.

2 OVERWINTER

After the first hard frost, mulch well with leaves or straw to protect the roots over winter.

3 SPRING GROWTH

In spring, the beet roots will send up tall flower stalks with small green clusters.

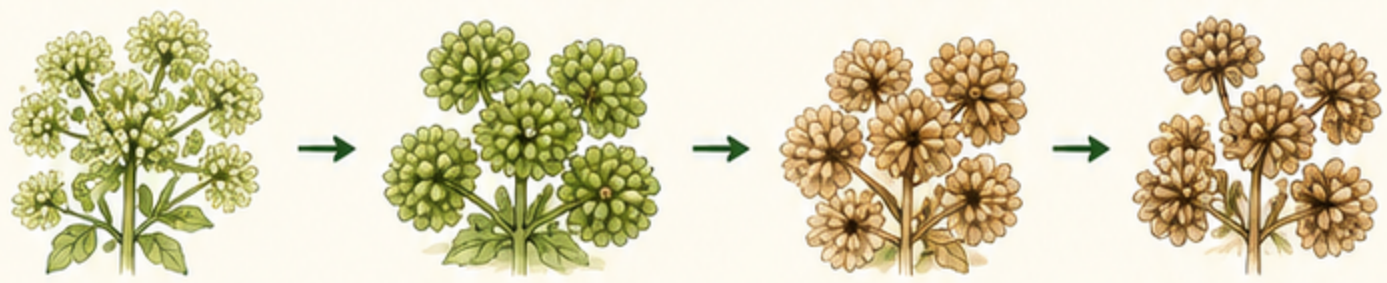
4 WATCH THE SEEDS

The flowers will fade and seed clusters will turn brown and dry. This usually happens 4–6 weeks after flowering.

5 HARVEST

Cut the seed stalks when the clusters are fully dry and brown, but before they shatter.

WHAT BEET SEED HEADS LOOK LIKE



Flowering
Small greenish flowers in clusters.

Early Seed Formation
Clusters are green and start to thicken.

Maturing
Clusters turn tan or brown and become dry.

Ready to Harvest
Seed heads are brown, dry, and papery.

GOOD TO KNOW

- One beet plant can produce hundreds of seeds!
- Beet seeds are actually clusters (each "seed" is a little cluster containing 2–6 individual seeds).

DRYING AND EXTRACTING SEEDS

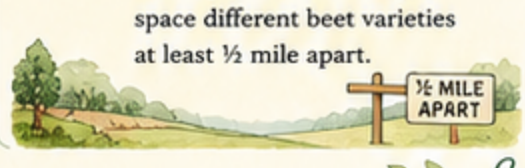
1. Bundle the stalks and hang upside down in a warm, dry place out of direct sunlight for 1–2 weeks.
2. Once fully dry, place the seed heads in a paper bag or on a tray.
3. Gently rub the clusters to release the seeds.
4. Pour into a winnowing basket or colander and shake to remove chaff and debris.
5. Store clean seeds in an envelope or jar.

STORING BEET SEEDS

Store in a cool, dark, and dry place. Properly stored beet seeds remain viable for 3–5 years.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

ISOLATION
Beets cross-pollinate easily. To keep seeds true to type, space different beet varieties at least ½ mile apart.



STRONG PLANTS
Choose your best, healthiest beets for seed saving.

PATIENCE
Let the seeds fully mature and dry on the plant for best quality and viability.

LABEL & DATE
Always label your seeds with the variety name and date harvested.

Save Seeds. Share Abundance. Grow the Future!

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