

STROUD COMMUNITY SEED BANK

2017 SEED CATALOGUE

Welcome to our very first seed catalogue!
As you will see, this is a seed catalogue like no other...



Much of the seed listed here is, in some way, special or unusual. It has all been grown by our team of volunteer seed guardians in and around Stroud, in back gardens, allotments and community projects.

Some of us have grown old heirloom varieties. Some of us have grown new varieties developed specially for home gardeners. Some of us have grown and saved our seed locally for several years, creating a strain that is adapted to the local growing conditions – and perhaps losing the original name or variety along the way! Some of us have grown seed passed on by friends or relatives.

Between us we have grown a range of tomatoes, beans and peas, as these are the easiest to save seed from. We have also saved seed from some herbs, flowers and a few other vegetables including chard, chillies and cape gooseberry. We haven't (yet) attempted much in the direction of the more challenging root crops, brassicas, alliums and curcubits – but hopefully these will come over the next few years.

All our seed is available in exchange for a donation. We suggest that £1 per packet would be fair, but please feel free to offer more or less according to what you feel the seed is worth and what you can afford.

As this is our very first experimental year, we have only tiny quantities of most seed, and we can't guarantee its quality. But we wanted to share it with you here as the beginning of an exciting journey. All the seed listed has been grown and harvested in 2016, with a couple of clearly marked exceptions.

Our seeds come with stories of the past, and a vision of the future. We know that by growing and sharing seeds locally, we are part of a worldwide movement that is protecting our vegetable heritage whilst building both local and global resilience. We are learning new skills, making new friends and gaining a deeper satisfaction from our gardening and growing. We hope that you will enjoy joining us on this journey! For more on the seed bank and how to get involved, see the back page.

Please turn to the back page for details of when and where our seed is available.

FRENCH BEANS

Cherokee Trail of Tears

grown by Jessie at Cainscross allotments, and by Richard and Simon in Eastington

Climbing French bean with small dark purple pods and beans, which turn green on cooking. Shiny black seeds. Can be eaten as fresh green beans, or the seeds dried for use as haricot beans in soups and stews or for making refried beans. This variety is said to have been saved by the Cherokee native American people when they were evicted from their lands and made a long hard journey, referred to as the trail of tears, to new land. Jessie's seeds have been home saved for several years by Jessie and her mum variously in Wales, Bristol and now Stroud and may not be totally true to type. Richard's seeds are more likely true to the original variety as they have been home saved for one year and came from the Real Seed Catalogue.



Cherokee Trail of Tears beans

Jane's Black Beans

grown by Jane at Stratford Road allotments

Climbing French bean similar to the Cherokee Trail of Tears beans above, but with mottled purple pods.

Jane's Flat Green Bean

grown by Jane at Stratford Road allotments

Climbing French bean. A flat podded bean with white seeds. Home saved by Jane for two years now, originally from Stormy Hall Seeds.

Fran's Good Bean

grown by Fran in Burleigh

Climbing French bean. Purple beans, described by Fran as quite crisp and tasty. The seed originally came from the Heritage Seed Library but has been home saved by Fran for several years and it grows well in her steep north facing garden.

Jane's Mottled bean

grown by Jane at Stratford Road allotments

Climbing French bean with lilac flowers, green and dark mottled beans and mottled seeds. Home saved by Jane for 20 years; originally a gift from an old allotment holder in Bridgewater.



Fran's good bean

Borlotti

grown by Richard and Simon in Eastington

Climbing French bean. Richard says "we only grow it for dried beans" but of course it's also edible at the green bean stage too.

Royal Burgundy

grown by Richard and Simon in Eastington

Dwarf French bean. A beautiful and productive purple bean bred for home gardeners by the late Elwyn Meader. It is a really good variety, cropping over a long period. Purple pods, flowers and stems, and the beans are easy to pick as they stand out against the foliage. Apparently tolerant of cold wet soils. Originally from the Real Seed Catalogue.

Eva

grown by Mark and the SCA team at Brookthorpe, and by Tamsin and the SVP community allotment in Stroud

Green podded bean with white seeds. This bean has been grown and home saved for several years by Mark at Stroud Community Agriculture in their walled garden at Brookthorpe. This year these seeds have also been grown by Tamsin and the Stroud Valleys Project community allotment in Stroud.

RUNNER BEANS

Jane's Runner

grown by Jane at Stratford Road allotments

Green beans with black seeds. Home saved by Jane for six years, from a cross between a white flowered and seeded variety and a red flowered variety.

Czar

grown by Richard and Simon in Eastington

Vast numbers of flat green pods with white seeds. Can be used as a green bean but Richard also recommended for the fat white seeds "that are very easy to dry and shell out of their pods and can be stored and boiled just like butter beans - we always set aside a few plants for dry bean production as they are so delicious cooked that way.

PEAS

Oskar

grown by Richard and Simon in Eastington

Short - 4' max height - first early pea. Richard reports: we picked the first ones at the end of April from plants sown in pots in February. Produced pods for about 6 weeks - overlapped with main crop peas nicely. From the Real Seed Company.

Ambassador

grown by Richard and Simon in Eastington

Popular main crop pea. Mildew resistant.

Lord Leicester

grown by Andy in Whiteshill

Tall maincrop pea, sourced from the Real Seed Company. A UK heirloom variety which is commercially extinct, and which the wonderful folk at the Real Seed Company have brought back in to circulation. It crops over a long period and grows to around 6ft high.



Lord Leicester peas

TOMATOES

Margaret's Black

grown by Richard and Simon in Eastington

Small, really prolific black cherry tomato. Small sweet and good tomato flavour. Tendency to split after picking. Seeds are saved on to paper, so should be sown this year.

Purple Ukrainian

grown by Richard and Simon in Eastington

A very good early plum type tomato. It does really well in the UK, making tall plants that soon set trusses of really large, deep purple plum tomatoes the size and shape of a goose egg. Really fleshy tomato; not watery and has a good balance of sweetness and acidity. Great for cooking and salads. The foliage is very attractive too, with dark green leaves and an interesting 'feathery' appearance. Needs staking as it is such a heavy cropper. Seeds are saved on to paper, so should be sown this year.



tomato seeds saved on paper

Tangerella

grown by Richard and Simon in Eastington

Prolific yellow medium sized tomato. Sweet taste and low acid content. Still cropping in November 2016 in greenhouse! This seed grown in a greenhouse. Seeds are saved on to paper, so should be sown this year. Originally from Brown Envelope Seeds.

Wild Tomato - Rote Murrel

grown by Jessie at Cainscross allotments and in Farmhill

A different species to the ordinary tomato, but very similar. Small red fruits which can be as big as a cherry. Tasty – good for grazing and also deliciously rich thrown whole in to tomato soups/stew. The plants are very rambling; the advice is that they don't need staking or pruning, but you might end up with a bit of a jungle to hunt through. The fruits can split easily. Jessie grew them outdoors and they seemed to be pretty healthy and resilient. Originally from Stormy Hall Seeds.



Wild tomato – rote murrel

OTHER FRUITING VEG

TOMATILLO/ CAPE GOOSEBERRY – Purple Blush

grown by Richard and Simon in Eastington

This is a very pretty, unusually-coloured tomatillo. It has yellow skin overlaid with a purple blush, and produces good crops of medium-sized fruit.

Don't grow too many plants; it is easy to be overwhelmed as they are very productive. You do need two plants to get fruit, as they aren't self compatible, but two or three should be plenty. Richard recommends growing them outside rather than indoors, as the cropping season is longer outdoors than inside. Great with fresh chillies and coriander as a traditional mexican green salsa. Seeds are saved on to paper, so should be sown this year.

CUCUMBER – Wautoma

grown by Richard and Simon in Eastington

An excellent cucumber from the breeding program at the University of Wisconsin in the 1980's. It can either be used small for pickles or left to grow for use as a slicing cucumber. The plants set many lightly striped dark green fruit, with tiny white spines that come off easily. Richard says "we got an awful lot of cucumbers off this one plant!" Quick to set fruit, bitter-free, and resistant to nearly all known cucumber diseases. Can be grown indoors or outside. This seed is from a plant grown indoors to reduce the possibility of crossing with other varieties, but it might not be totally true seed as another variety of cucumber grew outside nearby.

ACHOCHA

Grown by Amanda in Thrupp

South American vine - fruits are a cross between a cucumber and courgette. This seed is from 2015, but should still be good.



Numex Twilight chilli

CHILLI - Numex twilight

grown by Tamsin in Stroud

Small chilli, medium strength. Changes colour as it ripens. Starts off white then goes purple to orange to red. Home saved for two years by Tamsin, originally from Suttons Seeds. Grown in a polytunnel

ROOT CROPS

Thrupp Parsnip

grown by Amanda at Thrupp allotments

The official variety of this parsnip has been lost in the mists of time, but it's been grown and home saved for nearly ten years by Amanda on her allotment and does really well. The roots can get enormous without going woody.



Thinning from Thrupp parsnips

LEAFY CROPS INCLUDING SALADS

(see also herbs and flowers – some things are hard to categorise!)

Leaf Beet/perpetual spinach

grown by Jackie at Summer Street allotments

Described as 'tasty spinach' by Jackie, and grown on communal plots at Summer Street allotments, where the group save seed for their own use from several crops each year.

Rainbow Chard

grown by Jane at Stratford Road allotments

A mixture of colours saved by Jane for a couple of years on her allotment, originally from a 'Rainbow' mix.

Chard

grown by the Down to Earth community allotment group in Selsley

Mostly green but with some colours too.

Rocket

grown by Richard and Simon in Eastington

This is a large leaf rocket - similar taste to wild rocket but larger leaf and doesn't go to seed as easily as wild rocket.

Perennial Rocket

grown by Jane at Stratford Road allotments

Small leaved, with a strong taste.

Land Cress (large leaved)

grown by Fran in Burleigh

Quite large leaves, peppery but not excessively so. Self seeds very easily. Originally a gift from a friend in Stroud, now grown for several years by Fran, mostly self-seeded. Grows well in a windy north facing garden.

Land Cress

grown by Cathy in central Stroud

Mixed Callaloo

grown by Jane at Stratford Road allotments

A mix of varieties, mostly red-leaved, originally from the Heritage Seed Library. A plant commonly grown in warmer climates, brought to the UK by Caribbean allotment holders and doing surprisingly well here. Slow to start but can grow enormous. Quite decorative; the leaves can be used like spinach and have a mild taste.

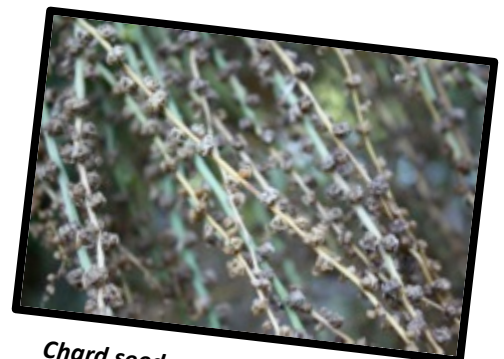
Parsley

grown by Jane at Stratford Road allotments

Home saved for three years in Stroud.



Shelling dry beans



Chard seeds at Selsley allotments

Mizuna

grown by the Down to Earth community allotment group in Selsley
Grown in a polytunnel. Slightly peppery salad leaves.

HERBS

(see also, flowers and leaf crops – some things are hard to categorise!)

Scottish or Sea Lovage

grown by Richard and Simon in Eastington

Smaller habit than traditional lovage. Use the leaves in sauces, soups and stocks to add depth of flavour and “umami”.
From a plant bought at Pennard Plants.

Lovage

grown by Bryan in Minchinhampton

Bronze Fennel

grown by Jane at Stratford Road allotments

Evening Primrose

grown by Jane at Stratford Road allotments

Purple Basil

grown by Richard and Simon in Eastington

Walking Onion

grown by Jane at Stratford Road allotments

Celery herb

grown by Bryan in Minchinhampton

Wild Garlic

grown by Bryan in Minchinhampton



Seed saving workshop March 2016

FLOWERS

Achillea

grown by Bernard at Hawkwood
probably white!

Brugmansia/Datura

grown by Amanda at Thrupp allotments
from 2015 but should still be good

Bird's Foot Trefoil

grown by Bernard at Hawkwood

Calendula (Pot Marigold)

grown by Clare in Stonehouse, and by Bryan in Minchinhampton
Clare's are orange ones, originally given her by an allotment neighbour and now grown and saved on her own plot for three years.



Swapping seeds and stories, Nov 2016

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Cowslips

grown by Jane at Stratford Road allotments

Foxglove

grown by Bryan in Minchinhampton

Hollyhocks

grown by Wendy in Stroud

Lupins (mixed)

grown by Bernard at Hawkwood

Mullein

grown by Amanda at Thrupp allotments

Nasturtium mixed

grown by Clare in Stonehouse

Red and orange flowers, seed originally from Garden Organic.

Poppies (mixed)

grown variously by Bernard at Hawkwood, Bryan in Minchinhampton and Megan (aged 4 years) at Cainscross allotments

Megan's are the pale purple sort grown for the poppy seeds you sprinkle on the top of loaves of bread sometimes.

Purple Allium

grown by Jane at Stratford Road allotments

Ball headed, 24cm tall.

Sweet pea

grown by Wendy in Stroud

Sweet William

grown by the Down to Earth community allotment group in Selsley



Seed swap, Nov 2016



at Cainscross allotments



Jane's black bean



Trip to the Heritage Seed Library, Ryton

HOW TO GET HOLD OF OUR SEED

We want to share our seed with you, the gardeners and growers of Stroud! We suggest a £1 donation per packet, but please feel free to pay more or less according to what you can afford and how much the seeds are worth to you.

Stroud Farmers' Market – Saturday 21st January 2017

Come and see us at the Down to Earth stall in the Stroud farmers market, where we are also selling fruit trees and bushes. Please check online for further market stall dates in February.

Film screening 'Seeds of Freedom' – Thursday 16th February

Watch this acclaimed documentary on the global history and politics of seeds, find out why local seed saving is so important, and take home some seed bank seed. Shown in collaboration with Transition Stroud, at Lansdown Hall. Doors open 6:30pm for 7pm start. More details online

Stroud Valleys Project seed swap – Saturday 25th February 2017

Find us at the SVP seed swap outside their eco shop on Threadneedle Street in Stroud town centre. We'll be there from 10:30am till 1pm.

Place an order

If you really can't make it to the market, film or seed swap, or if you desperately want a particular variety, we will do our best to take orders. Orders can be collected either from Jane's house on Gannicox Road (just off Cainscross Road) or from the events listed above.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Stroud Community Seed Bank is a project of social enterprise Down to Earth Stroud. We got started in January 2016 and have learned a great deal in our first experimental year. A team of around 15 volunteer seed guardians, including both experienced seed savers and novice gardeners, has grown all the seed listed in this catalogue in back gardens and allotments around Stroud.

By taking and growing our seed you are becoming part of this exciting project. We hope that you will be able to save your own seeds from our seeds and continue the story. If you would like to know more about seed saving, you want to join us as a seed guardian or you can offer any other help or support, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Seed Saving workshop – Thursday 9th March, 7.30-9.30pm

Offered as a Transition Stroud skillsgain workshop; an introduction to back garden seed saving. For more info and to book a place contact Erik: erikjohnw@gmail.com or 07725 900666

CONTACT STROUD COMMUNITY SEED BANK

For more information on anything about the seed bank and our seeds...

Email seedbank@downtoearthstroud.co.uk

Phone Jessie on 07505 974842

Check out our website: www.downtoearthstroud.co.uk/seed-saving

Find us on Facebook for news and opportunities

