

Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
Part I: Seed Saving Belongs in the Home Garden	1
A. Where Have All the Seed-Savers Gone?	1
B. How This Book is Different	3
C. How to Read This Book	3
D. Why Should We Save Seed	4
Part II: Saving Seed: What We Need to Know About Our Plants in Order to Save Seed—General Principles	11
A. How Exciting Do You Like It? Vegetative vs. Sexual Propagation.	11
B. You Look So Much Like Your Mother! Is My Plant a Hybrid or Open-Pollinated?	17
C. How Plants Do It, Part I: Plant Sexual Anatomy.	20
D. How Plants Do It, Part II: How Do They Get Together?	20
E. How Deep is Your Gene Pool? Inbreeding vs. Outbreeding	24
F. Promiscuity vs. Prudence. How to Improve the Odds You Will Get the Result You Are Looking For (or Something Better!)	25
Part III: If It's Your First Time: Easy Inbreeding Plants with Perfect Flowers	31
A. Peas and Beans	31
B. Lettuce.	33
C. Tomatoes	35
D. Peppers	38

Part IV: Plants with Moving Parts	39
A. The Squash Family	39
B. Spinach	44
C. Easy(er) Biennials	45
Part V: Not as Hard as They Look—Biennials and Obligate Outbreeders	53
A. Corn	53
B. Carrots and Parsnip	56
C. The Cabbage Family	58
Part VI: What Have We Missed?	63
A. Cucumbers	63
B. Melons	64
C. Sunflowers	64
Part VIII: Strategies for Success	67
A. Curing Seed, Seed Storage, and Longevity	67
B. Biennials and Winter Storage	70
C. Threshing and Winnowing	72
D. Space-Saving Strategies	76
E. A Drying House	77
Part VII: Final Recommendations: Try It!	81
Index	83
About the Author	87
About New Society Publishers	88