



Scripps Miramar Seed Library “Grow & Share”

News Letter

August 2022

Know Your Library

History of the Seed Library



In the summer of the 2019, the Scripps Ranch Library Branch manager at the time, Trevor Jones, informed me that one of the other libraries has started a seed library. We both felt

that Scripps Ranch should have one as well. Since I grew up with gardens and fruit orchards, gardening is one of my passions. This allowed me the opportunity to use my experiences to develop a viable and sustainable seed library for the public. Through various donations from several companies, we were able to begin processing seeds for our patrons.

The response from the community was very positive and demand grew quickly. It seemed to appeal to a great many people who are interested in growing their own fruits and vegetables. Later that year, the pandemic occurred, forcing us to close the library and stop our service. It was a devastating blow,

considering we were in our infancy in developing the seed library for our patrons.

A plan was formulated that consisted of mailing seeds per request from our participants. Through the assistance of the Friends of the Library, we began sending seeds out to the public, even receiving solicitations from out of state. Though our collection is small and diverse, we have successfully met the needs of over 425 patrons.

This newsletter is the beginning step to provide more data about gardening, sowing seeds, plants, and other subjects that are so important in attaining a successful harvest. This month, we are sharing information on how to look after the garden during the summer and how to prepare for the fall.



August Gardening

August is the month to enjoy productivity of the garden, whether it is flowers, fruits and/or vegetables. It is also a month of peak summer heat. Due to the increased temperature, certain steps should be taken to ensure a better harvest. Here are some tips which can be utilized to protect the garden.

Make sure the sprinkler system is in good working order and that the plants and vegetables are being watered regularly. Due to the intensity of the heat, the soil and the plants can quickly dry out and ruin your crop.

Inspect for insects on the plants and take them off as quickly as possible. Be sure to dispose of the insects and the damaged parts of the plants since these can contaminate other vegetation as well.

Grasshopper control is very important. A home-made formula consisting of one-part crushed garlic and three parts water is effective in preventing grasshoppers from landing on your plants.

Be sure to prune your tomato plants to get ready for fall produce.

Share harvest with local food share groups.



This is a list of seeds that can be directly sown in August in the soil. Leafy vegetables are especially good to add to your garden at this time.

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------|
| Basil | Beets | Broccoli |
| Carrots | Cilantro | Collards |
| Cucumber | Lettuce | Spinach |
| Summer Squash | Swiss Chard | |

Seed Library Pick – Plant -Basil

Where salt is good, so is basil. –Italian saying



Basil is native to India and is widely grown as a kitchen herb. This plant is very popular in Italian dishes.

Basil is a warm weather plant and is loved for its fragrance and taste.

Homemade Pesto – who can ignore that smell in the kitchen? Basil can be sown when the chance of frost is passed and the soil has warmed.

The most common type of Basil is Sweet Basil, Lemon Basil, Thai Basil. They grow quickly, needing 6-7 hours of direct sunlight. Frequent harvesting will make the plant strong.

Here's a recipe for Basil Syrup.

Seed Library Pick Recipe – Basil Simple Syrup

This is a familiar and well used recipe This refreshing syrup can be utilized in many different drinks and enhances the flavor of strawberries and lemons. It is perfect for mixing in seasonal cocktails and mocktails.

1 cup of basil leaves

1 cup sugar

1 cup water

Mix water and sugar in a saucepan and add basil leaves. When it comes to a boil, simmer and let the sugar dissolve. Then continue to simmer the syrup and stir for 14-15 minutes.



Turn off the heat and let it cool. Strain out the leaves and keep it in a jar for up to a week in the refrigerator.

The purpose of **Scripps Miramar Seed Library** is to promote growing more vegetables at home, foster a healthy lifestyle and to facilitate gardening to make it more enjoyable and successful. To this end, it is imperative that new gardeners learn to plant and grow their own vegetables. As part of this goal, it is hoped that after harvesting, the participants will donate seeds so that the Seed Library can expand and continue its work in reaching out to the community. The Seed Library, as an integral part of this area, provides information about gardening, growing fruits and vegetables and landscaping through the San Diego Public Library. There are a myriad number of books and videos that provide vital information on setting up and maintaining a garden. In addition, to further promote a healthy alternative to store bought produce, the Seed Library is planning to begin in-person lectures on various topics on gardening. It will cover subjects of broad interest as well as any specific areas suggested by the public.

For those interested, you are invited to share pictures of your garden and experiences, which can be beneficial for other gardeners. Also, any questions or comments regarding cultivating the land can be sent in. Several will be selected and a reply will be generated in the following month's newsletter.

The Seed Library would not have come into existence without the support and the donations of individuals and certain organizations.

Our sponsors



We acknowledge and are grateful to the **New Branch manager, Matt Beatty**, who has contributed his time and support to further promote the seed library. In addition, the **Friends of the Library** have assisted us with donations as well as a community member who contacted experienced and master gardeners for the upcoming planned lecture series. Finally, the staff at Scripps Ranch Library have been willing to help patrons with questions on utilizing the seed library and even taken orders for seeds. We are grateful for all the service and cooperation.

To know more about Seed library please visit SRFOL.ORG/seed-library.htm You can order seeds online using email

seedlibrary@srfol.org

As an independently-funded project, your financial support will go directly towards funding programs, supplies and educational materials needed for the Seed Library! Your support will also ensure the long-term sustainability of this ongoing community project. We accept cash and check donations. Checks can be made out to:

"Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library"

Please place "Seed Library" in the Memo portion. We appreciate your continued support of this project! For any questions, please contact Matt Beatty (MBeatty@sandiego.gov)

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**Scripps
Miramar
Seed Library**

TAKE A SEED, GROW A SEED, RETURN A SEED