

2002

Do You Have Tips For Buying Seeds?

Jerry Goodspeed

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/extension_histall

 Part of the [Horticulture Commons](#)

Warning: The information in this series may be obsolete. It is presented here for historical purposes only. For the most up to date information please visit [The Utah State University Cooperative Extension Office](#)

Recommended Citation

Goodspeed, Jerry, "Do You Have Tips For Buying Seeds?" (2002). *All Archived Publications*. Paper 362.
http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/extension_histall/362

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Archived USU Extension Publications at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Archived Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact dylan.burns@usu.edu.





A weekly question/answer column

Do You Have Tips For Buying Seeds?

Jerry Goodspeed answers:*

The arrival of seed catalogs in the mail and seed packets in garden centers gives us hope that spring is on its way. Now is a good time to start making plans for flower and vegetable gardens.

- When buying seeds, be certain to get the varieties known to perform well in your area. USU Extension publishes a list of recommended varieties for different locations. (Contact your local County Extension office.) These varieties are tested for growth, flavor, pest resistance and hardiness. Your local nursery can also give you tips on what grows best in your area.
- Most seeds are grown in specific locations in the world, then brokered to seed companies. For example, a large majority of sweet corn seeds are grown in southwest Idaho. The seeds are then sold to companies who package them and send them to retailers. Although the name of the seed company is different on the package, the seeds often come from the same location.
- Be cautious when ordering seeds through the mail. Occasionally companies will advertise a rare variety and substitute a common variety in its place. This can be an expensive way to buy a variety you could have purchased at your local nursery. If you do purchase seeds through a catalog, be sure it is reputable.
- Since most people tend to over-buy vegetable seeds, keep in mind that they can be stored for next year and still produce viable plants. Place seeds in the original package in an air-tight container such as a plastic bowl, a glass jar or a can. Be sure they are sealed tightly. Place tissue or paper towels in the container with powdered milk to absorb any excess moisture. Keep the container in a cool, dry place.

*Jerry Goodspeed is Utah State University Extension Horticulturist