

WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER

SEEdY WEDNESDAY

Seedy Wednesday continues to go from strength to strength with volunteers coming every week to help bag, catalogue, label and count seeds.

Their help has also been invaluable with the chilli project where volunteers have learnt all about isolation techniques. We have grown a whole load of seed saving experts! The permaculture students have also made regular visits. Seedy Wednesday takes place every week from 9-1, everyone welcome!



SEEd SWAP 7th February

SEEd will be holding a seed swap in Camping Orgiva on Sunday the 7th February from 5-7 pm. This should give us all plenty of time to get our summer seeds ready for spring planting. We will have somewhere around 150 varieties of tomatoes to swap, some rare aubergine varieties, over 100 chilli varieties as well as lettuces, companion plants, herbs, peas and beans and more. Bring your seeds to swap and invite your friends and neighbours. Don't worry if you don't have any seeds to swap. Everyone needs to get started somewhere so we will be happy to exchange seeds for a donation of money or your time.



SEEd BANK GOES TO GUALCHOS

The seed bank had a great day out on the 22nd of November when we attended the Fiesta del Otoño held in the plaza de la constitución in Gualchos. It was a great turn out in this beautiful little village where local artesanias laid out a fantastic array of home cooking, farm produce, cheese, handmade soap and crafts with local musicians providing entertainment all day. At the seed bank



stall we met growers from the local area as well as from the costa and the vega of Granada. We were met with loads of enthusiasm about our project and made some new friends. We met our youngest grower ever who excitedly bought lots of seeds for his own garden. Meeting growers from around the province is what the seeds bank is all about.



Exchanging information about what is being grown where and of course, swapping locally adapted seeds. If your pueblo is having a fiesta and you would like the seed bank to attend, please get in touch.

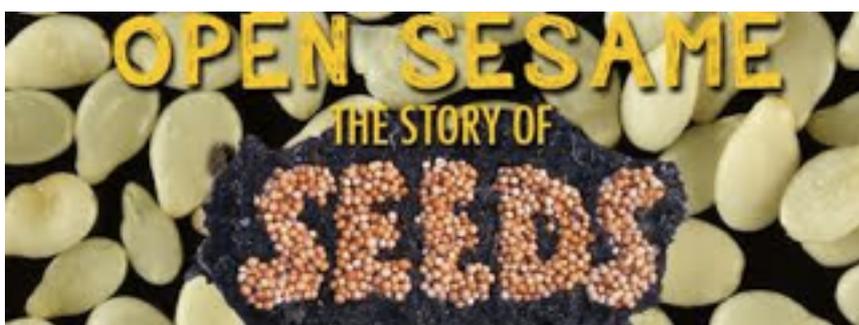


The SEEd Website

The SEEd web site is looking absolutely beautiful and is packed full of seed saving information, growing tips and the latest seed news. The catalogue is bursting with pictures of the incredible array of varieties we are growing with descriptions of each one. The web site is a fantastic gift to the project from our dedicated web team who do it all in their own time. A great big thanks to all of you!

Please remember to send in your photos of the varieties you are growing and descriptions too. Don't forget to check in on the forum to see what people are talking about and to add your experiences, both successes and failures. This is a great help to other growers. It's also a great place to have your questions answered about topics from planting times to isolation techniques to storing seeds.

www.seeed.es



Film Night

SEEd held a seed guardians seed swap night and screening of the film "Open Sesame" in Camping Orgiva on the 30th October. We had the opportunity to meet new growers and introduce them to our project. There was a rush at the door at 7pm as guardians arrived to hand in their seed returns and some people new to the seed bank came armed with bags and jars of seeds to swap. The film was a good mix of doom and hope. Although it highlighted what is wrong in the world of seeds and was quite heavy on the Monsanto angle, it really stressed that we can make a difference and the power is all in our hands if we just keep on growing the seeds and sharing them out. We went home feeling inspired to continue reaching out to more local growers to join the project as we work together with people all over the world dedicated to saving seeds, our genetic diversity and protecting our food security as we move into an uncertain future.

Chillies

We have had a great year for chillies! We grew 100 different varieties and had fun watching all the different shapes from pea-sized to penis-shaped (see the Peter Pepper chilli) and colours mature. We only save seeds from the best plants and pods and are just coming to the end of harvesting seeds for the bank. Currently we have saved 40 varieties and will be adding the varieties onto the website. Our best plants have been given a trim and are now in hibernation, hopefully they will make bigger and better plants in the spring and we can continue to save seeds from them. As the bank is growing more guardians are need to grow some of these varieties at home so we can maintain these varieties in our collection. Let us know if there is a particular variety you would like to grow and we will send you the seeds.



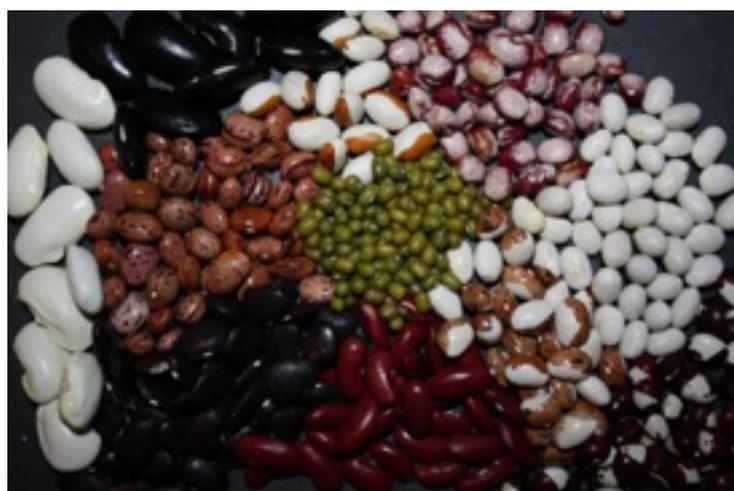
The Gift cards

We now have gift cards available all year round with a chilli heart photo we will send you 10 packets of seeds in one of these beautiful cards for only a 10€ donation including postage. We can even send seeds directly to your recipient with your message!



Beans

In 2016 we are going to focus on beans. We have had many donations of locally grown varieties, mostly in small numbers, so these do need to be multiplied. The great thing about French beans is that they are very difficult to cross so you can grow more than one variety in your garden quite happily without having to worry about isolation. We also have many dwarf varieties so you don't even need to worry about putting up poles. What could be an easier seed saving project? We also have a small number of runner bean varieties. These do cross rampantly so best to grow just one variety per garden. We also have mung beans, yard long beans and soya beans so please start planning a space in your spring garden now if you would like to get involved with the bean project. We



We would also welcome more donations of locally grown bean varieties. Even if you don't know the variety name, if they grow well in our area and we can eat them, then we want to save them!

THE SEED BANK IS YOUR PROJECT



The seed bank is a community project dedicated to preserving local varieties and spreading good quality, organic seeds throughout the region to facilitate the growing of healthy, vibrant food and

strengthening local resilience. The project relies completely on the input of its members so please send in your seeds, descriptions of the varieties you grow, exchange information with other members about what you grow and how you grow it. The more we know, the more we can grow. If you would like to get involved on a deeper level with the seed bank and be part of the decision making process regarding the structure of the group and where we are taking it, please get in touch. We are also looking for experienced seed savers to share their knowledge and skill and collaborate with us to create a seed saving course.

