

## ***Seed Types and Seed Swap Page***

### **Seed Types**

#### **GMO and Non-GMO**

GMO is an acronym used for Genetically Modified Organism. Non-GMO seeds are seeds where genetic engineering was not part of the plant breeding process. Most GMO seeds are used in the farming industry.

#### **Organic Seeds**

These are seeds from plants that have not been exposed to synthetic fertilizers or pesticides and are also non-GMO. They can include Hybrid seeds.

#### **Heirloom Seeds**

Heirloom seeds have typically been passed down from one generation to the next. Typically, if you plant an heirloom seed, you can save the seeds from that plant and have the same plant grow the next year. In order to be classified as an "Heirloom" seed, the seed must be open pollinated for at least 50 years. Note: Not all open-pollinate seeds are heirloom seeds.

#### **Open-Pollinated Seeds**

Open-pollinated seeds are from plants fertilized by natural methods i.e. insects, birds, rain, and wind. If two plants of the same variety are cross-pollinated by one of these methods, the resultant seed grows into a plant that is similar to the parent plants, with only slight variations. These variations lead to genetic diversity, which allows the seeds to gradually adapt to the local climate.

#### **Hybrid Seeds**

A hybrid seed is created when two different varieties of the same plant are crossed (either naturally in nature or using artificial methods). You will often see these referred to as F1 types. Hybrid varieties may have traits like disease resistance, improved flavour, improved productivity, earlier maturity, improved flower colour or structure etc. This will mean that the seed produced from these plants may be similar to the plant it is picked from or can revert to be like one of the parent plants. Therefore, hybrid seeds cannot be counted on to be true to the original plant.

### **What is a Seed Swap**

A seed swap is a way to exchange seed with other gardeners. Bring in your own labelled seed with botanical name, if possible, common name, colour, height, bloom period, annual or perennial seed and sun requirements. If you know the seed is an heirloom or native it would help to have this information as well. If the seed is for a vegetable or fruit, the days to maturity should be added. All seed if not from the past gardening year should have the year the seed was collected. We will have envelopes available to package up the seed if you have not been able to put it in individual packages yourself. For every package brought in (or equivalent) you may take from the packages of seeds for sale. You will be given a "ticket" with the number of

packages you may pick up for free! Please do not bring seed for Ontario invasive plants (see link below for a listing)

<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/invasive-plants/species/>