

Get Ready to Garden!

By Linette Branham

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Right after the new year, many of us begin to dream of what our gardens will contain that year, and planning for a spring and summer garden is one way to get through what can be a long, cold winter. Our dreams can easily be fueled by poring through seed catalogs and/or clicking through websites to discover what's new for the season and to find different varieties of plants we haven't tried before.

To help stir those gardening juices and build your enthusiasm for the upcoming gardening season, whether you're interested in buying seeds from a commercial company or a seed bank, check out these catalogs and websites. This list isn't exhaustive by any means, but contains suggestions for companies that offer variety, that are recommended by other gardeners, and many of which are right here in the Northeast. It's never too early to plan!

Johnny's Selected Seeds - Winslow, Maine (www.johnnyseeds.com)



Veggies, flowers, herbs, farm seed, organic, tools & supplies, and more! As you browse, you can choose from a variety of filters to find seeds, including heirloom, organic, hydroponic, greenhouse performers, container gardening, cold or heat tolerant, slow or fast growing, and more.

Fedco Seeds - Clinton, Maine (www.fedcoseeds.com)



Website invites you to browse by whether you want trees and plants for spring, bulbs & plants for fall, veggies, herbs and flowers, organic seeds, and has a special section dedicated mostly to potatoes and onions. Each section includes a helpful library of articles pertaining to that type of gardening.

High Mowing Organic Seeds - Wolcott, Vermont (www.highmowingseeds.com)



100% organic...100% of the time. A variety of veggies, flowers, herbs, and cover crops, with features for new seeds and easy to grow varieties. Site includes an extensive blog with archived articles, and invites users to contact them about the Seed Donation Program for organizations & community groups.

John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds - Bantam, CT (www.kitchengardenseeds.com)



A wide variety of veggie and flower seeds, seed collections of both flowers and vegetables, and six different habitat seed collections (e.g., butterflies, bumblebees, beneficial insects). A searchable blog, e-cookbook, and horticultural tips are a bonus!

Select Seeds - Union, CT (www.selectseeds.com)



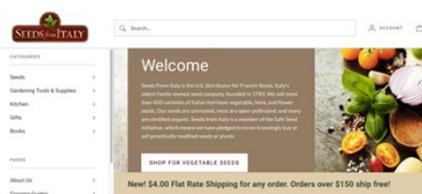
Browse through a wide variety of categories of flower seeds, such as annuals, perennials, fragrant, native, organic, or rare finds. A separate category for herbs & edibles, and a limited selection of vegetable seeds.

Annie's Heirloom Seeds - Hudsonville, MI (www.anniesheirloomseeds.com)



For the heirloom lover, all are heirloom seeds! Site includes flowers, vegetables, herbs for both culinary & medicinal use, and grains. Collections of seeds for vegetable, companion, and herb gardens, and gardening supplies, tools, and books.

Seeds From Italy - Lawrence, KS (www.growitalian.com)



Italian heirloom vegetable, flower, and herb seeds from the oldest family-owned Italian seed company. Many are organic, untreated, or open-pollinated. Site also includes garden tools and supplies, gifts, books, and kitchen products.

Park Seed (<https://parkseed.com>)



One of the most well known seed companies, a wide variety of flowers, vegetables, and herbs, including organic and heirloom, all always non-GMO. Bulbs, trees, shrubs, fruit seeds and trees, gardening tools and supplies, and a 'know-before-you-grow' selection of articles with helpful growing tips.

Burpee - Warminster, PA (www.burpee.com)



Another well-known seed company, with a wide variety of flowers, vegetables, herbs, and fruits, many of which are organic, heirloom and non-GMO. Videos and articles about gardening, gardening calendars, growing zone maps, and recipes.

New England Seed - East Hartford, CT (www.neseed.com)



Vegetable, flower, and herb seeds and gardening supplies for home garden and commercial farm use. Company offers conventional, hybrid, organic, and heirloom seeds; site includes a map of where to buy seeds retail. Gardening supplies and how-to articles for gardeners.

The Old Farmer's Almanac - Dublin, NH (www.almanac.com)



A cornucopia of gardening information! Although they don't sell seeds directly, the site includes a list of 40+ seed catalog companies; an online garden planner, calendar, and frost dates; loads of tips, articles, and videos on gardening; and much more from 'the old farmer'.

Seed banks / libraries: for seed saving and seed sharing

Community Seed Network (CSN) <https://www.communityseednetwork.org>



A joint initiative of Seed Savers Exchange and Canada's SeedChange, CSN provides a platform to connect people to community seed initiatives. Included are a useful directory and map of projects.

J. L. Hudson, Seedsman (Public Access Seed Bank) <https://www.jlHUDSONseeds.net>



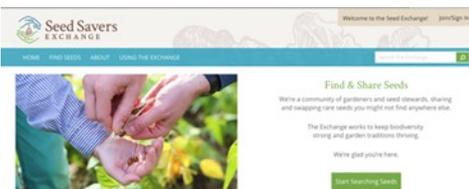
Established in 1911, this California-based resource offers in-depth online/print catalogs. J. L. Hudson's motto is "preservation through dissemination."

Seed Libraries <http://seedlibraries.weebly.com>



Among its resources are how-to steps on starting a community seed library, a *Cool Beans!* Newsletter, and COVID-19 resources on sharing seeds safely.

Seed Savers Exchange (SSE) <https://www.seedsavers.org>



SSE's Iowa-based seed bank houses 20,000-plus rare, open-pollinated seed varieties. The website gives details on requesting and listing seeds.

Wild Seed Project <https://wildseedproject.net>



Subtitled "Returning native plants to the Maine landscape," this site offers links on growing native plants from seed, what natives to plant, and much more. This nonprofit's staff urges readers to "Take the Pledge to Rewild."