

New at the Humboldt Public Library

Sprouting a Seed Library

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In the depths of winter, the seed catalogs begin to fill my mailbox and I start dreaming of the next gardening season. While attending a conference recently, one of the presentations was starting a Seed Library in your community. You know I made sure to attend this one, as I have been dreaming of starting this program in our community for a while now. I was so excited when I saw this presented as an option!

What is a Seed Library and does it cost to check-out seeds? At the Humboldt Public Library, we now offer a selection of vegetable, herb and flower seeds that you can now check-out. In fact, when we launched this in February we started with 398 seed packets. There is no cost to check-out seeds.

Do you have to return seeds? No, the seed packets do not need to be returned. However, they can be if you would like to.

What if I don't want an entire packet? We offer seed envelopes that you can mark the type and variety of seed, date of seed and any growing notes. If you only want 5 seeds of a particular variety of tomato seeds just use one of the small seed envelopes.

Do I need a library card to check-out seeds? You do not need a library card, just stop in, select your seeds and fill out a check-out card and return that card to a library staff member. {But, this would be a great opportunity to get a library card. Just bring your I.D. and proof-of-address. Anyone under the age of 18 needs to have a parent present to get a library card.}

Do I need to be a resident of Humboldt, Dakota City, or Humboldt County? You do not, anyone who resides in the state of Iowa can check-out seeds from the Seed Library.

Where is the Seed Catalog? You can find the seed catalog located next to the circulation desk in the adult department, where we previously had music CD's.

How many seed packets can I check-out? At this time, we have a limit of 10 per check-out.

I'm a first-time gardener, I'm not sure what to do? Gardening is learning by doing. Talk to other gardeners. (We LOVE to talk.) Check out our selection of gardening books at the library. Sign up for one of our gardening programs. And just know, each gardening year is different. If you've never had a home grown vegetable you'll discover quickly that the taste, color and texture are all truly enriched!

A great benefit of the Seed Library - You can try new varieties without the expense of purchasing the seeds. The awe from knowing these plants started from just a seedling that you planted in the ground never loses its power. Join us for our first gardening program this season on Saturday, March 2nd @ 9:30AM at the Library, where we will be discussing Seed starting. Think spring and browse through our gardening books and Seed Library after the program!

