

Integrating Seed Production Into The Market Garden

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Reasons to grow seed

- To enhance agro-ecological diversity
- To maintain an organic supply of your favorite varieties
- To adapt seed to local conditions
- To save money
- To sell/trade

Seed Growing Challenges

- Eastern Canadian Climate (Humidity and Temperature) can affect seed quality
- Most crops cross pollinate readily
- Most crops need large populations to avoid inbreeding (over many generations)

Some Seed Crops

Tomatoes and Beans: Small populations, little crossing.

Lettuce: Small populations, little crossing, hard to clean, heat and humidity can affect quality.

Cucurbits: Small populations, crosses readily.

Brassicas: Large populations, crosses readily.

Beets and Chard: Large populations, crosses readily, hard to get above 70% germ

Umbels: Large populations, crosses readily, humidity creates challenges

Seed Yields (at Tourne-Sol Farm)

Crop	10 ft row
Tomatoes	0.5 – 2 oz (14-57g)
Beans	1 lb (454g)
Lettuce	1-4 oz (28-113g)
Cucurbits	0.25-1 lb (113 – 454g)
Brassicas	0.25-1 lb (113 – 454g)
Beets+ Chard	1 lb (454g)

References

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- Organic Seed Alliance (www.seedalliance.org)
- www.savingyourseeds.org
- Eastern Canadian Organic Seed Growers Network