



MY FAVORITE SEED SOURCES FOR
THE HOME GARDENER

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By Lori Hernandez of Three Acre Farm

One of the #1 questions I field on a regular basis is:

"Where do you buy your seeds?"

Well, truth be told, everywhere!

Here are few things to consider before choosing your seed source:

1

Seek out seed companies that are located in a similar growing environment to yours. This not completely necessary, but it makes sense that if a plant variety does well in their trial gardens, it will probably thrive in YOUR garden.

2

Are you interested in saving your own seeds to use next year? Then you will want to seek out companies that specialize in "Heirloom" or "Open Pollinated (OP)" varieties. These seeds will save "true to type".

You should NOT try saving seeds from Hybrid varieties - they will not save "true to type". You will know it's a Hybrid if you see the term "F1" on the seed description.

I like to save my own seeds, so I avoid Hybrid varieties when possible.

3

Are you going to grow your garden with only Organic methods? If so, you may want to lean toward purchasing certified Organic seed. Most Organic plant varieties are bred specifically to thrive without the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides.

Given the choice, I will usually purchase Organic.

SEED SOURCES

YOUR LOCAL GARDEN CENTER

In our neck of the woods (near Grand Rapids, MI), my favorite place to shop for seeds is Flowerland (I hit up the location on 28th St., near US 131). They have a HUGE selection of flower and vegetable seeds, seed potatoes, onion sets, tubers, bulbs, etc. As an added bonus, they have a highly knowledgeable and helpful staff.

HIGH MOWING ORGANIC SEEDS

Located in Vermont, this seed company has been my trusted go-to source for almost the past decade and is my #1 recommended source for vegetable seeds.

- *Great selection, appropriate for home gardens, homesteads and farms.*
- *They offer a good mix of Open Pollinated and Hybrid seed varieties.*
- *Ordering online is super easy.*
- *Free shipping on orders over \$10!*
- *100% Certified Organic*
- *Non-GMO Project Verified*

JOHNNY'S SELECTED SEEDS

This Maine based company has been killin' it since the 70's. Johnny's not only offers great seeds, but also their website is chock full of valuable growing information. This is where I order the majority of my flower seeds, since they offer flowers varieties that are suitable as cut flowers (only some flowers are good for cutting/bouquets!).

- *Wide vegetable selection makes them the trusted source for many small farms, but also appropriate for the home gardener.*
- *Offer Hybrid, Open Pollinated and Organic choices.*
- *Fantastic selection of Herbs and Cut Flowers.*
- *Well known for their high quality growing supplies, such as seed trays, heat mats, plastic mulch, etc.*
- *Free shipping on orders over \$200*

TERRITORIAL SEED COMPANY

Located in Oregon, this company offers a selection similar to Johnny's Select Seeds. I often find a few unique varieties that are not available anywhere else, like their "Yum Yum Gold" mini sweet bell peppers, which are AH-MAZING and some super fun tomato varieties.

- *Excellent selection of Hybrid, Open Pollinated and Organic seeds.*
- *Lots of unique cut flowers, peppers and tomatoes.*
- *100% Non-GMO*
- *Easy on-line ordering*

BAKER CREEK HEIRLOOM SEEDS

Ah, Baker Creek... their seed catalog is the stuff of dreams. *Swoon!* If you are looking for fun, unique or rare varieties, look no further. Jere and Emilee Gettle, the founders of the company, and their employees quite literally scour the globe as seed explorers, searching for new (or perhaps we should say ancient!), endangered and rare seed varieties. You must check them out! They are located in Missouri, but also have stores in Connecticut and California.

- *You get a free pack of seeds with every order. It's a fun surprise!*
- *GMO free seeds*
- *Supporter of heritage and heirloom seeds*
- *All seeds are Open Pollinated (so you can become a seed saver, or course!)*
- *Rare, exotic seeds that you won't find anywhere else, along with some familiar faces*

SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE

If you are really geeked out about seed saving, consider a membership to the Seed Savers Exchange, one of the nation's largest "seed banks". Their mission is to preserve our diverse agricultural heritage. They are located in Iowa.

- *All seeds are Open Pollinated (obviously!)*
- *Non- GMO*
- *Many certified Organic options*
- *Offer "Certified Heirloom Varieties" (they have been saved/shared by home gardeners for generations)*
- *Great selection of Heirloom tomatoes and peppers!*
- *Offer "Garden in Box" gift sets. What a great Mother's Day gift idea!*

GROW ORGANIC/PEACEFUL VALLEY FARM AND GARDEN SUPPLY

Located in California, Peaceful Valley Farm and Garden Supply is a homesteader's dream come true. They offer everything from seeds to gardening tools/equipment to cheese-making supplies to composters to dehydrators to beekeeping supplies! I could go on and on. Be sure to sign up for the email subscription service, as they regularly offer flash sales and discounts to their subscribers.

- *100% GMO free seeds*
- *Certified Organic seeds*
- *HUGE selection of farming, gardening and homesteading supplies. Watch out! You're going to put EVERYTHING on your wish list!!! Ha!*
- *Good source for Organic garden fertilizer and compost*

BOTANICAL INTERESTS

Ok, I must confess one of the reasons I love this company is because of their great artwork/illustrations. Everything about their seed pack and products are beautiful and sure to make you feel joyful and inspired! If you live in the Grand Rapids area, be sure to visit Flowerland, since they carry this brand in the store. Otherwise, their online ordering is simple.

- *Non- GMO seed*
- *Great selection of Heirloom and Organic vegetable choices (and the occasional hybrid, but most are OP).*
- *Varieties are selected for home garden use.*
- *Large selection of flowers, many that make good cut flowers*

OLD HOUSE GARDENS

This small company is located in my home state of Michigan (Ann Arbor). They specialize in rare, endangered and Heirloom Bulbs/Tubers. Their customer service is top-notch and their catalog/website is so fun to explore. A great source for hard to find:

- *Daffodils*
- *Peonies*
- *Lilies*
- *Tulips*
- *Daylilies*
- *Irises*
- *Dahlias and more...*

FLORET FLOWERS

Floret is located in Washington state, and they offer an incredible selection of seeds and tubers **specifically for cut flower use**. However, their bulbs and dahlia tubers are so popular they often sell out minutes after they go on sale! Be sure to check out their amazing selection of cut flower seeds!

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact me at: lori@threeacrefarm.net

or

Visit: threeacrefarm.net

