

Seize some seeds from the garden

By Kym Pokorny
OSU Extension Service

CORVALLIS – As the gardening season winds down and you pick the season’s last vegetables let some plants go to seed and harvest them for planting next year.

“Saving seed can be really fun and is a great way to learn about plants,” said Weston Miller, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service. “If you choose the right types of vegetables, you can keep them going year after year without buying them again.”

The key to saving seed is selecting open-pollinated or heirloom plants, which produce offspring with the same traits. Hybrids are bred from two different varieties for characteristics like disease resistance or higher yield and won’t come “true to type” in the next generation. Check seed packets or catalog information so that you know which you are buying.

The easiest crops for saving seed are annual plants that self-pollinate like lettuce, beans, peas, peppers, eggplants and tomatoes.

Collect seed from the healthiest plants and allow them to dry. Harvest lettuce seed when the seed coat turns hard and dark in color. Peas and beans are ready for harvest when the pod dries on the plant. Pepper seeds are ready when the fruit is fully mature and starts to wrinkle.

Tomatoes are a smidgen more complicated. Allow the fruit to fully ripen and scoop the seeds along with the gel that surrounds them and place in a jar of water. Allow this mixture to ferment for up to five days until the seeds sink to the bottom. Then dry seeds on a paper towel.

Seeds from annual herbs like cilantro (coriander), arugula, and calendula are also easy to save. In fact, these annual plants will often self-seed, so if you let the seeds mature on the plants and fall to the ground new plants will start next year.

Many broccoli family crops (broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cabbage, collards, kale, mustard greens) are all part of the same species and are pollinated by insects. Though it is relatively easy to save seeds from these biennial crops, they tend to cross pollinate easily and you might end up with new (and sometimes tasty) traits.

It is more difficult to save seed from other crops, particularly in a garden setting. For example, beets and Swiss chard are wind pollinated and cross with each other. These plants require at least 3,200 feet of isolation to prevent cross pollination. Similarly, corn is pollinated by wind,

making it difficult to isolate without special screening.

Carrots are insect pollinated and cross with Queen Anne’s lace, a common weed. Summer and winter squash flowers are also insect pollinated and require isolation to maintain true varieties. The fruit grown from cross-pollinated squash seeds are often bitter tasting, according to Miller.

“Saving seed can be really fun and is a great way to learn about plants.”
– Weston Miller

Store seeds in tightly-sealed glass containers in a cool and dark location. Make sure that you label seeds with the type of seed and the date. A small packet of silica desiccant or powdered milk in the jar can help to remove moisture and keep the seeds dry. The refrigerator or freezer is also a good place for storing seeds that you collect and also seeds that you buy. Put small seeds in envelopes and label them. Place the envelopes in sealable freezer bags.

SISTERS ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS

WED...SEPT. 20

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Wednesday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go online to hardtailsoregon.com.

Sisters Saloon Texas Hold 'Em Tournament 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go online to sisterssaloon.net.

THURS...SEPT. 21

Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Thursday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.

FRI...SEPT. 22

Hood Avenue Art Artist's Reception for Sharon Reed 4 to 7 p.m. Featuring her stunning jewelry with textured sterling and stones. Plus **Live Music!** For additional information call 541-719-1800 or go online to hoodavenueart.com.

Downtown Sisters 4th Friday Art Stroll 4 to 7 p.m. Galleries and shops feature live entertainment and refreshments, for info go to sistersartsassociation.org.

Sisters Library Live Music & Painting Exhibit by Dennis McGregor 7 p.m. Free show for all ages! With reading of verses from his children's book, "You Stole My Name." Donations gladly accepted at the door for Sisters Folk Festival. dennismcgregor.com.

Fir Street Park Sisters Farmers Market 2 to 5:30 p.m. Oregon-grown produce & plants, with live entertainment too! For more info go to sistersfarmersmarket.com.

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Friday, no cover! For more information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

SAT...SEPT. 23

Rancho Viejo 10th Anniversary Party and Music with Mariachi Band 5 to 9 p.m. With prizes and specials! Come celebrate, and come early! For more information call 541-549-3594.

Cork Cellars Live Music with Jim Cornelius & Mike Biggers 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For more info call 541-549-2675 or go to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

Sisters Saloon Live Music with Thomas T and The Blue Chips 8 to 11 p.m. No cover for blues! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Saturday (if no live music is scheduled), no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go online to hardtailsoregon.com.

TUES...SEPT. 26

The Belfry Sisters Science Club presents "To Infinity and Beyond" 6 p.m. social hour; 7 p.m. lecture. Gabe Gabrielle, former Dir. of Eng., USAF Special Operations Command, is with NASA's speaker's bureau. \$5 (teachers, students & science club donors free). For information call 541-912-0750 or go to sistersscienceclub.org.

Sisters Saloon Trivia Night 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sign-up is at 6:15 p.m. Free, every Tuesday! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.

WED...SEPT. 27

Sisters Saloon Texas Hold 'Em Tournament 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go online to sisterssaloon.net.

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Wednesday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go online to hardtailsoregon.com.

THURS...SEPT. 28

Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Thursday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.

FRI...SEPT. 29

Paulina Springs Books Author Reading with Scott Kloos 6:30 p.m. On "Pacific Northwest Medicinal Plants: Identify, Harvest and Use 120 Wild Herbs for Health and Wellness." Free, with refreshments! 541-549-0866.

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Friday, no cover! For more information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

Fir Street Park Sisters Farmers Market 2 to 5:30 p.m. It's the final market of the 2017 season for Oregon-grown produce & plants, and live entertainment too! For additional information go to sistersfarmersmarket.com.

SAT...SEPT. 30

Village Green Park Fresh Hop Festival and Live Music with The Brothers Reed noon to 8 p.m. 26 breweries with their fresh hop brews! \$15 pays for pint glass and 5 tokens (token is a 4-oz. pour); additional tokens \$1 each. For more info go to sistersfreshhopfest.com.

Sisters Saloon Live Music with Burnin Moonlight 8 to 11 p.m. No cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.

Cork Cellars Live Music with Brian Odell 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For additional information call 541-549-2675 or go online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

The Belfry Live Music with OneBeat 7 p.m. 25 young international musicians will perform, presented by Sisters Folk Festival. Suggested donation: \$10-\$20 adults, \$5 students. For more info go online to belfryevents.com.

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Saturday (if no live music is scheduled), no cover! For info call 541-549-6114 or go online to hardtailsoregon.com.

MON...OCT. 2

Sisters High School Bingo & Community Dinner 5 to 6:30 p.m. for dinner (just \$2 a plate from Los Agaves!) and 6:30 p.m. for Bingo, \$15 for 11 games with great prizes! For more info call 541-549-4050.

Event listings are free to advertisers. Deadline to submit is 5 p.m. Fridays to teresa@nuggetnews.com

HARDTAILS BAR & GRILL

HAPPY HOUR MON-FRI 4-7pm

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hardtailsoregon.com
Facebook [darcymacey](https://www.facebook.com/darcymacey)

THE OLD STONE

– Wed., Sept. 27 –
Christina LaRocca
w/ opener Jess Ryan
7:30 doors 8:00 show
\$8 adv \$15 door
Innovative singer-songwriter infused with Folk & R&B

– Sat., Sept. 30 –
Jordani & The Sun Kings
7:30 doors 8:00 show
\$12 adv \$20 door
Seattle band full of feel-good vibes.

oldstonebend.com
157 Franklin, Bend

Sisters MOVIE HOUSE

STARTS FRIDAY
FRI., SEPT. 22 – THURS., SEPT. 28

Kingsman: The Golden Circle (R)
Fri 4:00, 7:00
Sat-Sun 1:00, 4:00, 7:00
Mon-Thurs 4:00, 7:00

Lego Ninjago Movie (PG-13)
Fri 5:00, 7:15
Sat-Sun 2:30, 5:00, 7:15
Mon-Thurs 5:00, 7:15

Columbus (N/R)
Fri 5:15, 7:30
Sat-Sun 1:00, 5:15, 7:30
Mon-Thurs 5:15, 7:30

Maudie (PG-13)
Fri 4:15, 6:45
Sat-Sun 1:45, 4:15, 6:45
Mon-Thurs 4:15, 6:45

Neither Wolf Nor Dog (N/R)
Sat-Sun 3:00

Movie times and titles are subject to change. Visit website or call for latest information.

WWW.SISTERSMOVIEHOUSE.COM
541-549-8800

The Belfry

Sept 26 / Tu / 7-9 PM
"To Infinity and Beyond!" presented by Sisters Science Club.

Oct 19 / Th / 7 PM
Taarka and Hot Club of Bend
The new acoustic "supergroup" presenting masterfully deep Americana and Gypsyjazz string music!

Oct 27 / Fri / 8 PM
HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA
David Jacobs-Strain and the Crunk Mountain Boys
A fierce slide-guitar player, and a song poet from Oregon known for his virtuosity and spirit of emotional abandon.

PUB OPENS 1 HR PRIOR TO SHOWS
BelfryEvents.com
541-815-9122