



Stroud Community Seed Bank

Down to Earth Stroud ... keeping it local

2023 SEED CATALOGUE

Seed saved from 2022

All seed listed in this catalogue has been grown by our team of volunteer seed guardians, in and around Stroud, in back gardens, allotments and community projects. Our seeds are available for a donation and can be collected from these locations around Stroud — see page 23 for more details.

Loose Plastic Free Shop
The Long Table, Brimscombe
Chalford Community Shop
Horsley Community Shop
Ruscombe and Whiteshill Village Shop

Our seeds come with stories of the past, and a vision of the future.

By growing and sharing seeds locally, we are part of a worldwide movement that is protecting our plant heritage whilst growing both local and global resilience. We are learning new skills, making new friends, all the while gaining a deeper satisfaction from our gardening. We hope that you will enjoy joining us on this journey! For more on the seed bank and how to get involved, see the back pages of this catalogue.

Welcome to Stroud Community Seed Bank's seed catalogue

All our seed has been grown and harvested in 2022. It is not treated or coated, and it is all open pollinated — which means you can grow plants and save your own 'true to type' seed from them. Sowing our own seed, and knowing that other local people are sowing the same seed, is very satisfying.

It is a difficult task ensuring the quality of seed saved from a community project, so to keep the consistency of quality, we expect every person who donates seed to have attended one of our Spring/Summer workshops. These set out the basics of seed saving and cross pollination, particularly between vegetables varieties. If you need to attend a workshop, see the contact details at the back of this catalogue and be in touch. Beginners and experienced growers all welcome.

The seed packets we use are paper and so biodegradable.

Between us, the seed group have grown several varieties of tomatoes, leafy greens, beans and peas, as well as an eclectic range of other vegetables, herbs and flowers. We aim to grow varieties that are suited to small scale, organic gardening and by harvesting the most successful crops each year, we are increasing their resilience and adaptability to the soils and climate of Stroud and district.

This year's seed harvest

2022 was another challenging season, but all gardeners say that every year! We had a dry winter and a cold dry spring. This suited some plants, but many of our favourites prefer the heat. Then we had a heatwave with days in the 30s, followed by a dry summer and wet autumn – all this made it difficult to get seed to set and ripen.

However our pioneering seed guardian Heather, despite slugs, deer and caterpillars, managed to save seeds on her hillside plot, with its newly erected polytunnel – harvested with help from Jane.

Our use of the distribution centres in local shops was our answer to on-going social and financial hardship. It has proved to be a huge success in terms of amount of seed distributed and has benefited the shops too. What a Seedy Team we are!

Thanks to all the many people who contributed seeds to Stroud for the forthcoming growing year.

Bulking up

Because of difficult growing conditions, our crops of Queensland Blue Squash were unsuccessful. However we continue to save good quantities of Cherokee Trail of Tears climbing French beans. It tastes good, crops abundantly and has an attractive intense black colour. And we are now starting to bulk up the Bridgewater bean, another climbing French bean. Both varieties performed well during the hot, dry summer of 2022.

The Cherokee Trail of Tears seed comes with an interesting story. The bean was originally cultivated in the Smoky Mountains by the Cherokee, a Native American people. When the Cherokee people were marched from the Carolinas to Oklahoma by the Federal Government in 1838–39 they carried the beans with them. Thousands of people are thought to have died from exposure along the way, which is why the journey is called 'The Trail of Tears' and why the beans are named as they are.

The beans are a symbol of hope. Some from this stock were shared with the seed company Seed Savers Exchange in the 1970s and have come to Stroud from there.



Cherokee Trail of Tears beans drying on the plant

Thrupp parsnip, a landrace

The director of Down to Earth, Amanda Godber, has grown parsnips and carefully saved their seeds on her allotment in Thrupp for many years. The original variety has been forgotten. In 2017, members of the newly formed, Stroud Community Seed Bank also began to grow and save what became known as the Thrupp parsnip, pooling seed from around Stroud and offering them to the public. This is not a new variety or cultivar but a landrace or ‘country-breed’, in other words a plant that is genetically diverse, locally adapted and can be highly variable in appearance.

Dan, a farmer in the Mendips said: ‘it turned out to be the best parsnips I’ve ever had – really productive, not too big ... and tasty, could I possibly get some more (seeds) from you?’

Parsnip seeds need to be sown in the same year of harvesting and our fresh seeds have proven to have consistently good germination. The seed bank aims to give the best seeds possible to the public.

The Seed Bank’s three-year plan

Since 2016, all our seeds have been freshly harvested in the year of distribution. But after some very challenging years for seed saving, with poor growing conditions or wet autumns, we have decided to adopt a three-year programme of saving seeds, to give us more flexibility and to mitigate against crop failures.

Most seeds last from 4 to 6 years, so three-year-old seed is still fresh and viable. We now have a purpose-made seed growing area in Horsley (thank you Heather), and are aiming to grow and save seed from vegetable crops rotated there over three years: peas, French beans, Thrupp parsnip, rainbow chard, beetroot, lettuce, onions and leeks. Members of the group who have greenhouses or polytunnels will save tomatoes and cucumbers for us in generous quantities, as well as other vegetables, herbs and flowers.

We hope that this plan will help improve food security and allow us to supply Stroud with locally saved seeds whatever the weather!

Note: those crops which require fresh seed (such as parsnips and parsley) and seed lasting only two years (onions and leeks) will be grown as needed, and won’t be part of the three-year plan.

In order of appearance, our 2023 catalogue contains:

Climbing French Beans
Peas
Tomatoes
Other Fruiting Vegetables
Root Crops
Leafy Greens including Salads
Herbs
Flowers

VEGETABLES

CLIMBING FRENCH BEANS

Sow: May Plant: June Harvest: July–October

Blauhilde

Grown by unknown

The perfect dual-purpose vegetable as it produces an abundant harvest of pencil-thin, stringless green beans with a fine, sweet flavour from early summer, and then the last few pods can be left on the plant to dry for white haricot beans to store.

Borlotti

Grown by unknown

Climbing French bean. Red pods when ripe, containing red beans with white speckles.

Bridgwater

Grown by Jane
Where Stratford Road allotments

Reliable crops of medium flat pods, green mottled with dark purple, cooks green. Can be used like borlotti and dried. Beans pale pink with dark random markings. Given to Jane Brown more than 30 years ago at her allotment in Bridgwater, Somerset by an older grower.



Borlotti Beans

Cherokee Trail of Tears

Grown by Sally, Jane
Where Stratford Road allotments and Tetbury

There is some diversity within the different batches of these beans — the pod colours range from green and purple speckled, to solid purple. The beans inside are black.

Can be eaten as fresh green beans, or the seeds can be dried for use in soups and stews, or for making refried beans.

Cobra Climbing French Bean

Grown by Jane
Where Stratford Road allotments

One of the most reliable French beans around and a prolific cropper, producing heavy yields of long, straight sweetly-flavoured beans over a long period. A vigorous climber, it quickly clambers to the top of poles and starts producing beans ahead of most other varieties.



Cobra Bean



Bridgewater Bean growing away

Trebona Bean

Grown by Jane
Where Stratford Road allotments

Later cropping, wider flat green pods with white beans. Can be dried to eat like small butterbeans.

PEAS

Sow: February–June Harvest: June–October

Hurst Greenshaft

Grown by Deirdre

Resistant to downy mildew and fusarium wilt. Of moderate height.

Blauwschokker

Grown by Heather

Where Horsley

A medium height heritage pea with pink and purple flowers which develop into purple pods. These can be picked immature as mangetout, or left to mature and used dry.



Blauwschokker Pea



Carlin Peas drying for seed

Carlin

Grown by Heather

Where Horsley

These are grown for drying. Once dried and cooked, they have a firm texture and nutty flavour. Can be used as a British-grown substitute for chickpeas.

Purple Princess

Grown by Zoe

Where Winchcombe

Tall purple mangetout peas bred by amateur pea breeder Andy Davice (a friend of Zoe, seed guardian) for distribution by community seed savers. A tall pea, prolific, with small, very sweet pods (don't leave them too long!). Great to eat raw.

TOMATOES

Sow: February–March (inside) March–April (outside)

Harvest: July–September

Black Cherry – indeterminate

Grown by Fran

Where Burleigh

Vigorous cherry tomato which ripens to dark purple. Tall growing plants are vigorous and healthy. Good tasting fruit about 25g in weight. Open pollinated variety.

Black Russian – indeterminate

Grown by unknown

Dark, deep red/black fruit with green ‘shoulders’. The flesh is a rich tasting and sweet taste – really delicious. It matures early; best grown indoors. Open pollinated variety.

Gardeners’ Delight – indeterminate

Grown by unknown

A reliable tomato, with delicious cherry sized fruits. Suitable for indoor or outdoor cultivation. Grow in moist but well-drained soil; stake firmly and feed well. Open pollinated variety.

Mexican Honey – indeterminate

Grown by Fran, Jane

Where Burleigh, Cainscross

One of our seed savers was given a few seeds by a French family connection. ‘It is absolutely delicious, sweet and amazing, when allowed to fully ripen on the vine (don’t be tempted to pick too soon)’. Skin can be a bit tough, but the taste is worth it. Small to medium sized fruit. Open pollinated variety.

Wild Tomato, Red Currant – indeterminate

Grown by Jane

Where Stratford Road allotments

Delicious little tomatoes, on vigorous plants. Prolific. Suitable for indoor and outdoor growing. Open pollinated variety.



OTHER FRUITING VEG

Aubergine

Grown by Heather
Where Horsley

Sow May (indoors) or late May/early June (outside)

Harvest: July–September

Aubergines need a lot of warmth and sun to crop well; these were grown in a polytunnel. They can be grown outside, but only do well in very warm summers.

Cucumber, Marketmore

Grown by Fran, Heather
Where Burleigh, Horsley

Sow: February/March (inside) or March/April (outside)

Harvest: July–September

This is a heavy-cropping cucumber for growing outdoors or under glass; in Fran's north-facing garden it grows very well in a greenhouse. Its fruits are dark green and slightly prickly – you can easily brush off the soft prickles. Open pollinated variety.



Marketmore Cucumber



Horsley Buttercup Squash

Winter Squash, Horsley Buttercup

Grown by Heather
Where Horsley

Sow April/May (indoors) or late May/early June (outside)

Harvest: September–November

This squash was grown on a hillside in a seed saver's garden. It has a dense firm flesh and a sweet, nutty flavour.

Winter Squash, Uchiki Kuri

Grown by Heather
Where Horsley

Sow April/May (indoors) or late May/early June (outside)

Harvest: September–November

A thin-skinned orange coloured variety; it looks rather like a small pumpkin. The flesh is firm with a delicate chestnut-like flavour.

ROOT CROPS

Thrupp Parsnip

Grown by Jane, Heather, Sally, Fran
Where Stratford Road allotments, Horsley, Tetbury and Burleigh

The official variety of this parsnip has been lost in the mists of time but we have multiple seed guardians now saving this parsnip seed from different plots around Stroud. Generally, the parsnip produced is quite large and well-shaped. However, the stony and often poor soils of Stroud District can produce forked and miscellaneous results.



Thrupp Parsnip

Salsify

Grown by Fran
Where Burleigh

This is an ancient vegetable, grown for its beautiful, but short-lived edible flowers, as often as for its delicious, delicate tasting tap root.

Salsify needs a warm sunny site, preferably on light, free-draining soil.

OTHER GREEN VEG

Chard, rainbow

Grown by Jane Brown
Where Stratford Road allotments

Sow: March–July (direct) Harvest: all year round

A variety of colours, very hardy and very easy to grow. Pick the leaves from early summer right through autumn and into winter. Plants left in over winter will grow again in early spring to give you one more picking before going to seed.

Chop Suey Greens

Grown by Jane Brown
Where Stratford Road allotments

Fragrant, tasty leaves and young stems — can be eaten raw in salads or cooked. Steam, blanch or boil, but don't overcook as can go bitter. The small yellow daisy-like flowers have edible petals, but remove flowers if you are growing for the leaves.

Fat Hen, Chenopodium album

Grown by unknown

A relation of Good King Henry (see below). Commonly viewed as a weed, but it is a good food source for birds and insects – and humans.

Good King Henry, Chenopodium bonus-henricus

Grown by unknown

A perennial plant which is cultivated as well as being found in the wild; useful as a substitute for spinach though it becomes bitter as the plant grows older. The leaves, stalks and flower buds are all edible.

Cold stratify the seeds to improve germination by storing the seeds in the fridge for a few weeks before sowing. You can also sow fresh seeds outdoors or in pots in the autumn. Sow the seed in nutrient-poor sowing soil to help the seedlings develop strong roots.



Chop Suey Greens



Land Cress, self sown

Land Cress

Grown by Jane
Where Stratford Road allotments

Quite large leaves, peppery but not excessively so, great addition to salads. Self-seeds very easily. Now grown for several years by Jane, mostly self-seeded. Grows well in a windy north facing garden.

Leaf Beet

Grown by unknown

Leaf beet (or perpetual spinach) can be picked continuously through to the autumn months. Useful on dry soil, where true spinach runs to seed.

Lettuce, Bughatti

Grown by Heather

Where Horsley

A dark red Oakleaf lettuce that is very slow to bolt. Early, sweet, and beautiful.

Lettuce, Cantarix

Grown by Zoe

Where Winchcombe

A good all-year-round lettuce suitable for autumn growing. Voluminous, wide dark-red oak leaf fading to green in the centre. Good resistance to aphids and disease, slow to bolt. Cut and come again heads.



Bughatti Lettuce

Lettuce, Frilly Green

Grown by Heather

Where Horsley

Light delicate-flavoured green lettuce with frilly leaves. Cut and come again.



Lettuce from mixed seed

Lettuce, mixed

Grown by Heather, Sally
Where Horsley, Tetbury

A mixture of Cos and Frilly Green seeds which will grow true to type as lettuce do not cross pollinate easily. We have labelled them 'mixed' because the seed heads look identical and they got muddled up at harvest. Grow as small cut and come again leaves or as heads to cut whole.

Leek, mixed

Grown by Jane
Where Stratford Road allotments

Sow: Feb or Mar (in seed beds or trays)
Plant out when pencil thick in June or July for winter harvest

A mixture of three varieties: blue green winter/husky, Musselburgh and one unknown variety. They may have cross pollinated to create natural hybrids as all plants were open-pollinated and not F1 hybrids. They will grow winter hardy leeks, so give them a try!

Rocket, perennial

Grown by Jane
Where Cainscross

Annual salad rocket readily goes to seed, but perennial rocket can be cut repeatedly, though it can be quite short-lived. Its peppery flavour is sharp and clean, hotter than annual plants. It is a low growing, sprawling plant, not affected by hot weather. Cut it back if you want to keep it from flowering or let it self seed. Needs rich, moist soil in a sunny spot and good in containers.

Star Grass

Grown by Jane
Where Stratford Road allotments

Sow: January–April (indoors)
or March onwards (direct)
Harvest: 8 weeks from sowing

Minutina 'Erba Stella' originally from Chiltern Seeds. Heirloom from Italy. Grows in clumps of slender green leaves, like jagged grass, with little 'horns' on the tops, 6" tall. Harvest young when leaves are most tender and new growth will come. Repeat sow as it seeds easily, very good in pots.



Star Grass growing happily in a pot

Vegetable Mallow

Grown by Zoe
Where Winchcombe

Sow: April–May (direct) Harvest: July–October

Highly nutritious and rich in vitamins A, B and C along with calcium, magnesium and potassium. Tender young leaves give a mild flavour to salads and older leaves can be sauteed like other greens. Flowers and green seed heads are also edible.

Brassica crosses

The following three brassicas are not guaranteed 'true to type' due to possible cross pollination.

Sow: Mar–April in seed bed or trays.
Plant out in May.

Brassica broccoli x rape

Grown by Heather
Where Horsley

We tried to get seed from purple sprouting broccoli, but the plants cross-pollinated with rape grown locally. Bees can travel a long way! To avoid waste, we are offering this crossed seed for use as micro-greens, or grow them on to use as brassica greens — like kale. As a bonus, most of the seed will give you Purple Sprouting heads in Spring 2024.



Broccoli before crossing with rape



Kale before crossing

Kale, mixed, mostly Cavalo Nero

Grown by various

Tall plants with popular, long, 'bubbly', very dark green leaves.

Kale, mostly Red Russian

Grown by various

Medium plants with lovely ragged leaves, glaucous green with pink/red ribs especially when young when they are good raw in salads.

HERBS

For sowing and growing instructions we suggest you consult a good book or website. Different herbs require very different treatment and we don't have room here to give you all the details.

Angelica

Grown by unknown

A tall biennial with huge flowerheads followed by delicate seed pods. The stem is traditionally candied for use in baking. Good for including in wildlife planting as the flowers are attractive to pollinators and the seeds are eaten by birds. Biennial.

Borage

Grown by unknown

Cucumber-flavoured leaves can be used for tea, and bright, starry blue flowers for decorating salads. All parts, except the roots, are flavorful and have culinary or medicinal uses. Annual.

Celery Leaf, Apium graveolens secalinum

Grown by unknown

Also called cutting celery and soup celery, this is darker, leafier, and has thinner stalks than salad celery and doesn't need to be blanched or planted in trenches. The leaves have a strong, almost peppery taste. Biennial.

Chives

Grown by Jane, Fran
Where Stratford Road allotments,
 Burleigh

A valuable herb, with many uses such as chopped to add to salads or to top potato salad. Perennial.

Dill

Grown by Jane, Fran
Where Stratford Road allotments,
 Burleigh

A clean fresh taste that is traditionally used in Sweden on potato salad and fish. The seeds can also be used in cooking or teas. Annual.



*Chives sharing a pot
with self-sown orchids*

Fennel, herb

Grown by Jane, Fran
Where Stratford Road allotments,
Burleigh

A fresh aniseed taste that works well on salads or with fish. The seeds can also be brewed into tea. Perennial.

Marjoram

Grown by Jane
Where Stratford Road allotments

A cold-sensitive herb with sweet pine and citrus flavours. Very useful in cooking – the flavour is best before the flower buds open. Perennial.



Fennel in flower

Parsley, mix of curly- and flat-leaved

Grown by Jane, Fran
Where Stratford Road allotments, Burleigh

Both have very good flavour, and can be grown inside a glasshouse or on an outside plot. Flat-leaf or Italian parsley has a more robust flavour than the curly variety. Annual/biennial.



Curly-leaved Parsley

Sweet Cicely

Grown by Fran
Where Burleigh

An attractive flowering plant, with an aniseed taste and fragrance. It is noted for attracting wildlife and is one of the first nectar plants to appear in spring, so it is valuable to bees and other pollinators. Use the leaves to sweeten stewed fruit and make tea from the seeds. Perennial.

FLOWERS

For sowing and growing instructions we suggest you consult a good book or website. Different flowers require very different treatment and we don't have room here to give you all the details.

Allium Christophii

Grown by Jane
Where Stratford Road allotments

Striking globes of violet, star-shaped flowers in early summer. Dries well. Seed will need a period of stratification over winter. Herbaceous perennial.

Allium Purple Sensation

Grown by Jane
Where Stratford Road allotments

Round heads in bright purple. Seed will need a period of stratification over winter. Herbaceous perennial.

Aquilegia, blue and pink* *Aquilegia, mostly white

Grown by unknown

Native blue *Aquilegia vulgaris*. Good for wildlife, attracts pollinators which help to produce vegetable seeds. Perennial.

Cerithe

Grown by Fran
Where Burleigh

A hardy plant with gorgeous silvery blue-green leaves. Annual.

Corncockle, *Agrostemma githago*

Grown by unknown

Large and easy to grow; flowers abundantly for weeks in summer. Annual.

Forget-me-not, *Myosotis*

Grown by Jane
Where Stratford Road allotments

Bright blue flowers in mid spring, a real treat, and the bees like them too. Annual.

Foxglove, *Digitalis*

Grown by unknown

Pink and white flowers beloved by bees and other pollinators. Biennial.



Foxgloves

Hollyhock, Alcea rosea

Varieties available: black and mixed

Grown by Jane

Where Stratford Road allotments

The mixed seed includes lots of cream. Tall plants, good for pollinators. Biennial or short-lived perennial.

Honesty, Lunaria annua

Grown by unknown

Purple-mauve flowers attractive to pollinators. Biennial.

Iris Byzantium

Grown by unknown

A tall yellow bearded iris for sun or partial shade. Perennial.

Love-in-a-mist, Nigella damascena

Grown by unknown

Lovely light blue flowers and stunning seed heads. Likes neglected, damp patches. Annual.

Marigold, Calendula officinalis

Grown by unknown

Wonderful bright orange daisy-like flowers: petals are edible in salads, dried heads (or fresh) make a medicinal tea. Roots believed to deter cabbage root fly. Annual.

Morning Glory, Ipomoea

Grown by Fran

Twining plants with mostly blue flowers. Grows and flowers fairly late in the season. Annual.

Nasturtium, Tropaeolum

Grown by Jane, Heather, people at Ebley allotments

Where Stratford Road allotments, Horsley, Ebley allotments

Creeping plant with trumpet flowers. Bees love them and they will attract the cabbage butterflies to eat them instead of your brassicas. Colours are likely to be apricot, bright red, orange and golden yellow. Annual.



Opium poppies

Phormium Green, Phormium tenax

Grown by unknown

Strappy leaves. Once established needs little care. Perennial.

Poppy Opium, Papaver somniferum

Grown by Josie

Where Stroud

Poppy seeds heads are beautiful so it's easy to let them go to seed in the garden. Once the seed pods have dried turn them upside down over a paper bag to catch the seeds or sprinkle them around the garden wherever you want poppies to grow. These poppy seeds can be used in bread or cakes. Annual.



Purple Loosestrife

Purple Loosestrife, Lythrum salicaria

Grown by unknown

A moisture-loving plant that needs soil that doesn't dry out, shallow water, or a bog garden. Perennial.

Purple Toadflax, Linaria purpurea

Grown by Jane
Where Stratford Road allotments

A beautiful flower which likes well-drained soil in full sun. Perennial.

Scabious, tall

Grown by Jane
Where Stratford Road allotments

A classic British garden plant, invaluable for its hugely long-flowering season and good vase life. Unscented. Finches love the seeds, so be quick to collect as they will beat you to it! Annual/perennial.

Sunflower, Helianthus annuus

Grown by unknown

The seed comes from several different varieties of sunflowers, some growing to 5ft high and some of which may have crossed with each other. Annual

Sweet Pea annual, Lathyrus odoratus

Grown by Jane
Where Stratford Road allotments

Twining plants with delicate, scented flowers. Rewards your picking by producing even more flowers. Annual (poisonous).

Sweet Pea perennial, Lathyrus latifolius

Grown by unknown

Large sprawling plants. Can grow to approximately 8' so needs support. They need full sun and a rich soil. Perennial (poisonous).



Sunflowers

Sweet Rocket, Hesperis matronalis

Grown by unknown

Likes moist, well-drained soil. Readily self-seeds, so is perfect for naturalising in a wildlife garden. Very fragrant. Biennial or short-lived perennial.

Tagetes

Grown by unknown

Multitudes of single yellow or orange flowers that bloom from summer through to the first frost of winter. Annual.

Thalictrum delavayi

Grown by Fran

Where Burleigh

The seed originally came from the Museum in the Park. It has grown on in Fran's garden for a few years and now she has offered some of the seed to the seed bank. Perennial.

Triteleia

Grown by Jane

Where Stratford Road allotments

Lovely delicate plant with clusters of funnel-shaped blue flowers in early summer. Will naturalise if happy in an open well-drained spot. Perennial.



Triteleia



Woad

Woad, Isatis tinctoria

Grown by Clare

Where Stonehouse

The seed originally came from the Museum in the Park. Clare has grown it on and has now offered some of the seed to the seed bank.

For more on growing and using woad try this website: <https://www.naturesrainbow.co.uk/2016/12/growing-woad/>
Biennial

How to Get Hold of Our Seed

We distribute our seeds at five locations around Stroud, all of them doing spectacular work to support their community. Please visit their websites or Facebook pages for opening times.

Chalford Community Shop

Chalford Village shop is a co-operative run by volunteers providing fresh local produce and services, supporting local enterprise, and creating a social and information hub at the heart of the village.

Tankards Spring, High St, Chalford, Stroud GL6 8DJ
<https://chalfordshop.wordpress.com>

Horsley Community Shop

Now in our second decade, we are the hub of the community. An award winning, volunteer run, village shop.

The Pavilion, Priory Fields, Horsley, Stroud GL6 OPT
<https://horsleyshop.co.uk>

Loose Plastic Free Shop

Our shop offers a range of unpackaged food (mostly organic) plus a selection of other useful household and personal care items.

33 High Street, Stroud GL5 1AJ
<http://looseplasticfree.co.uk>

The Long Table

The Long Table aims to give everyone in our community access to great food and people to eat it with. Meals, drinks, events ...

The Long Table, Brimscombe Mill, Stroud GL5 2SA
<https://www.thelongtableonline.com>

Ruscombe and Whiteshill Village Shop

Run by volunteers, providing a good range of foods, local crafts, small library and a café.

Lower Street, Whiteshill GL6 6AN
<http://www.whiteshillvillageshopandcafe.co.uk>

Also Stroud Farmers' Market

First Saturday of January, March and April,
8.30am–2pm.



How to Donate your Saved Seed

Every November, at our annual Harvest Gathering, we bring seeds and seed savers together to share stories of the growing year. We then collect the seeds, take our share, and packet up the rest for the next years distribution. If you'd like to donate seed and want to be invited to the Harvest Gathering in 2023, email the seedbank (see contact details below).

2023 Events

Potato Day — Saturday 4th February 2023

Come and join Stroud's annual Potato Day. Pick up dozens of varieties of seed potatoes.

Time: 8.30am—2pm

Location: Union Street, Stroud GL5 2HE

The seed bank seeds won't be available at this event but we may have seeds available at a market later in the year.

Seed Saving Workshops 2023

If you'd like to donate seed to the Stroud seed bank please attend one of our basic seed saving workshops, no matter your experience level. That way you'll know you are donating healthy, viable seed that hasn't crossed with the weeds next door!

Dates and times of workshops are to be announced; look out for an update on Google Groups, Facebook, or Instagram. To register an interest, email the seedbank (see contact details below).



Harvesting Cherokee Trail of Tears seeds

Contact the Seed Bank

Email seedbank@downtoearthstroud.co.uk

www.downtoearthstroud.co.uk/seed-saving

FB @stroudcommunityseedbank

Stroud Community Seed Bank is a project of the social enterprise Down to Earth. It started in January 2016, and is part of a global movement of seed savers. We are members of both the Seed Sovereignty Programme UK and the Heritage Seed Library.

The Seed Sovereignty Programme, UK and Ireland run by The Gaia foundation

This is a small international organisation with 35 years experience of working with communities and movements around the world to protect biodiversity and uphold indigenous wisdom.

In the Southwest region, our community seed bank is well-known – it is one of the oldest groups, with a wealth of experience to share with others, both online and at gatherings in the region.

The Seed Sovereignty website is beautiful and the stories of seeds from across the British Isles are inspiring; the reader feels that the love of seeds, local and home-saved, is at the heart of home food production.

Heritage Seed Library, run by Garden Organic (was HDRA)

The Library manages a 'living' collection of seeds so that their genes, and the memories that go with the plants, can continue down the generations. These are seeds which would otherwise be lost because the commercial licensing of seeds is too expensive for growers of these diverse varieties.

As members we can receive heritage seeds saved over many years and grow them for our own use – and where possible return some of the seed harvested to the Library.