

## ■ UCCE Master Gardener Program

## Vegetable Seed Sources

The following is a list of many U.S. seed companies or organizations that sell or distribute vegetable seeds for home gardens. Information was sourced from the seed companies' websites. Some companies provide more information than others and include instructional videos, garden planners and social media pages like Facebook, Pinterest and Instagram.

Many companies also list flower and herb seed. Seed is grown all over the world, including on the west coast of the U.S. Some companies buy seed from multinational seed companies and repackage them as their own. Some companies and organizations grow their own seed and list who their growers are and where their farms are located.

Seed companies listed here are for informational or historical purposes only. Their inclusion does not indicate endorsement. Information on cell fusion male sterility, plant variety protection, utility patents, trademarks, stewardship agreements and limited use licenses is not included in this document. <u>Information in</u> "Notes" is current as of the publication date; users should verify information prior to any purchase.

U.S. Seed Company	Location and Web Address	Notes
Adaptive Seeds	Sweet Home, OR <a href="https://www.adaptiveseeds.com/">https://www.adaptiveseeds.com/</a>	2009, F, HF, L, Net, No GMO, Org, OSSI, OP, RA, SSP, T
All Good Things Organic Seeds	Ojai, CA <a href="https://www.plantgoodseed.com/">https://www.plantgoodseed.com/</a>	2011, HF, L, No GMO, 100% Org, heirlooms
Amishland Heirloom Seeds	Lancaster County, PA <u>amishlandseeds.com</u>	2007, F, HF, Net, OP, SG, SSP
Appalachian Heirloom Plant Farm and Seed Conservancy	Winchester, OH <a href="http://appalachianheirloomplantfarm.weebly.com/">http://appalachianheirloomplantfarm.weebly.com/</a>	1990s, genetically unique Appalachian heritage crops
Artisan Seeds	Sunol, CA store.growartisan.com/	B, HF, Net, peppers, tomatoes

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds	Missouri and Petaluma, CA	1998, L, SSP, heirlooms, seeds from 75 countries
	www.rareseeds.com/	
Botanical Interests	Broomfield, CO	1995, L, No GMO, Org, SSP, heirlooms
	botanicalinterests.com_	
Bountiful Gardens	Willits, CA	1980's, L, No GMO, OP, Org, OSSI, SSP
	bountifulgardens.org/	
Burgess Seed and Plant	Bloomington, IL	1912, L
	<u>eburgess.com</u>	
Burpee	Warminster, PA	1876, No GMO, Org
	www.burpee.com/	
Clifton Seed Co.	Faison, NC	1928, F, specializes in hybrids
	cliftonseed.com/	
Comstock Ferre	Historical Reference	1820, bought by Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds
Community Seed Exchange	Sebastopol, CA	2010, No GMO, OP, SG, locally grown, public
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	<u>communityseedexchange.org</u>	seed exchange,
The Cook's Garden	Historical Reference	Bought by Burpee
Deep Harvest Farm	Freeland, WA	HF, No GMO, OP, Org, RA, T
	https://deepharvestfarm.com/	
Diaspora Seeds	Booneville, CA	F, No GMO, OP, SSP, heirlooms
	diasporaseeds.com/	
Eden Brothers	Arden, NC	Org, No GMO, SSP, 800 heirlooms
	http://www.edenbrothers.com	
Evergreen	Anaheim, CA	Asian vegetables
	evergreenseeds.com	
Fedco Seeds	Waterville, ME	1978, L, Org, OSSI, SSP, T, cooperative
	http://www.fedcoseeds.com	

Fertile Valley Seeds/Carol Deppe	Corvallis, OR	B, HF, No GMO, L, OP, Org, OSSI, SSP
	www.caroldeppe.com	
Ferry Morse	Fulton, KY	1856, No GMO, Owned by Plantation Products. It also owns retail brands American Seed(1897),
	<u>plantationproducts.com</u>	Livingston Seed (1850), Northrup King (1890), and McKenzie (1896 in Canada)—seed not available on web; only available in retail stores
Fruition Seeds	Naples, NY	2012, HF, L, Net, No GMO, OP, Org, OSSI, RA for Northeast, SSP
	<u>fruitionseeds.com</u>	for Northeast, SSP
Gurney's Seed and Nursery	Greendale, IN	1866, L, No GMO, SSP, varieties are tested at
	gurneys.com	Gurney's Farm before being sold in catalog
Harris Seeds	Rochester, NY	1879, Org, highlights All American Selections
	harrisseeds.com/	(AAS) winners
Heirloom Seeds	West Finley, PA	1988, F, No GMO, OP, 1450 varieties
	<u>heirloomseeds.com</u>	
Henry Field's Seed and Nursery	Aurora, IN	1892, now operated by Scarlet Tanager LLC
	henryfields.com/	
High Mowing Seeds	Wolcott, VT	1996, B, HF, L, 100% Org, OSSI, SSP, T
	<u>highmowingseeds.com</u>	
JL Hudson Seedsman	La Honda, CA	1911, Public access seed bank
	<u>jlhudsonseeds.net</u>	
Hudson Valley Seed Library	Accord, NY	2004, HF, OP, Org, OSSI, SSP, art packs,
	http://www.seedlibrary.org	heirlooms
Johnny's Selected Seeds	Winslow, ME	1973, B, L, Org, SSP, employee owned
	www.johnnyseeds.com	
Kitazawa Seed Company	Oakland, CA	1917, L, No GMO, SSP, Asian vegetables
	http://www.kitazawaseed.com	

Landis Valley Museum Heirloom Seed Project	Lancaster, PA <a href="http://www.landisvalleymuseum.org">http://www.landisvalleymuseum.org</a>	Mid-1980s, historically significant Pennsylvania German seeds from 1750-1940
D. Landreth Seed Company	Historical Reference Philadelphia, PA	1784, oldest seed company in the U.S., run by the family until 1942 when company was sold
	Out of business in 2016.	
Living Seed Company	Pt. Reyes Station, CA <a href="http://www.livingseedcompany.com">http://www.livingseedcompany.com</a>	B, F, Heirlooms, HF, L, OP, Org, RA, SSP
Monticello/Thomas Jefferson	Charlottesville, VA monticelloshop.org/	L, heirlooms from Monticello
Native Seeds/SEARCH	Tucson, AZ nativeseeds.org/	1983, L, No GMO, OP, RA for Southwest, heirlooms
Natural Gardening Company	Petaluma, CA <a href="mailto:naturalgardening.com">naturalgardening.com</a>	No GMO, Org, SSP, oldest certified organic nursery in US
New England Seed	East Hartford, CT  neseed.com	1987, Org, SSP, seed for home and commercial growers
Nichols Garden Nursery	Albany, OR <a href="mailto:nicholsgardennursery.com">nicholsgardennursery.com</a>	1951, F, OP, Org, OSSI, SSP, heirlooms
Park Seed	Hodges, SC parkseed.com	1868, L, No GMO, Org, AAS winners
Peace Seeds/Alan Kapuler	Corvallis, OR peaceseedslive.blogspot.com/	Public domain breeding for extreme weather conditions
Peaceful Valley Farm Supply	Grass Valley, CA groworganic.com	1976, L, Org, SSP
Pinetree Garden Seeds	New Gloucester, Maine superseeds.com/	1979, F, Org, SSP, over 1300 varieties
Prairie Road Organic Farm	Fullerton, ND http://www.prairieroadorganic.co	B, F, L, SSP, OSSI

Redwood City Seed Company	Redwood City, CA	No GMO, OP, SG, SSP, known for peppers
Redwood Seeds	ecoseeds.com/ Manton, CA redwoodseeds.net/	F, L, No GMO, OP, 100% Org
Reimer Seeds	Saint Leonard, MD reimerseeds.com/	L, No GMO, T, AAS winners, 2200 hot peppers, 900 tomatoes
Renee's Garden Seeds	Felton, CA reneesgarden.com/	No GMO, Org, SSP, seeds grown in U.S. and abroad
Resilient Seeds (Backyard Beans & Grains)	Deming, WA www.backyardbeansandgrains.com/	2008, B, Org, OSSI, RA for Pacific Northwest, focus on beans and grains
Restoration Seeds	Ashland, OR restorationseeds.com	F, L, No GMO, 100% OP, 600 Org varieties, OSSI, T
Roughwood Seed Collection	Devon, PA  roughwoodseeds.org  rareseeds.com/store/vegetables/william-woys- weaver/	1932, L, 4,000 heirlooms, some of collection for sale at Baker Creek Seed
Sand Hill Preservation Center	Calamus, IA sandhillpreservation.com/	F, HF, Org, OSSI, SSP, genetic preservation
Seed Savers Exchange	Decorah, IA seedsavers.org	1975, HF, L, Org, SSP, member seed exchange, preservation focus, 600 varieties
Seed Treasures	Angora, MN seedtreasures.com	F, HF, No GMO, OP, SSP
Seeds from Italy	Lawrence, KS growitalian.com/	2001, F, SSP, U.S. distributor for Franchi Sementi seed
Seeds of Change	Rancho Dominguez, CA seedsofchange.com	1989, L, No GMO, 100% Org, SSP
Select Seeds	Union, CT  selectseeds.com	L, Org, SSP, only 30 vegetables; mostly flowers

John Sheeper's Kitchen Garden Seeds	Bantam, CT	SSP
R.H. Shumway's	Randolph, WI rhshumway.com	1870, L, No GMO, AAS Winners, founded in Rockford, IL, heirlooms
Sierra Seeds	North San Juan, CA sierraseeds.org/	F, Net, RA for northern CA
Siskiyou Seeds	Williams, OR siskiyouseeds.com/	B, F, No GMO, OP, 100% Org, OSSI, T
Southern Exposure Seed Exchange	Mineral, VA southernexposure.com	1982, No GMO, Org, OSSI, RA for mid-Atlantic, SSP, T, cooperative
Sow True Seed	Asheville, NC <a href="http://www.sowtrueseed.com">http://www.sowtrueseed.com</a>	2008, L, Org, OP, No GMO, SSP, regional growers and North American independent seed producers
Stokes	Buffalo, NY stokeseed.com	1881, No GMO
Sustainable Mountain Agriculture Center	Berea, KY heirlooms.org/	HF, heirloom beans and tomatoes from Appalachia
Sustainable Seed Company	Chico, CA sustainableseedco.com/	2008, F, L, Org, SSP, 1800 varieties, heirlooms
Territorial Seeds	Cottage Grove, OR territorialseed.com	1979, L, Org, SSP, purchased from Steve Solomon
Tomatofest	Carmel, CA tomatofest.com	1991, F, No GMO, OP, 100% Org, SSP, 650 tomato varieties
Tomato Growers Supply	Fort Myers, FL tomatogrowers.com	1984, F, No GMO, eggplants, peppers, tomatoes
Totally Tomatoes	Randolph, WI totallytomato.com/	No GMO, owned by Jung Seed, AAS winners

Turtle Tree Seed	Copake, NY turtletreeseed.org/	HF, Org, SSP, T, biodynamic
Uprising Seeds	Bellingham, WA  uprisingorganics.com	L, OP, 100% Org, OSSI, T
Vermont Bean	Randolph, WI vermontbean.com/	L, beans and other vegetables, owned by Jung Seed
Victory Seeds	Molalla, OR victoryseeds.com/	1999, F, HF, L, OP, OSSI, SG, SSP, preservation
A.P. Whaley Seed Company	Mount Horeb, WI https://awhaley.com/	B, F, HF, Org
Wild Boar Farms	Napa Valley, CA wildboarfarms.com/	B, new variety tomato breeding
Wild Garden Seed	Philomath, OR wildgardenseed.com/	1994, B, F, HF, L, No GMO, 100% Org, OSSI

## **Key:**

[2009] – Year company or organization was established. Not all of the oldest seed companies are still owned or run by the founders or founding family.

- **B** On farm breeding, using traditional methods, not genetic engineering.
- **F** Family owned or family run.
- **HF** Some or all seed produced on the company's home farm.
- L Lists Latin names for Genus and species of a variety—critical for seed savers so they can know whether one plant will cross with another.
- **Net** Most seed grown by network of small seed growers.

No GMO – While it is unlikely that any home gardener would encounter genetically modified seeds (companies selling GM seeds license/lease the seed to the grower and ask growers to sign contracts), seed companies that indicate they don't sell GMOs mean they try to insure/test that their seed has not been contaminated by unwanted crossing with genetically altered seed.

**OP** - 100% open pollinated varieties. An open pollinated variety comes from parents that exhibit similar traits. A hybrid variety comes from parents with dissimilar traits. Open pollinated seeds are recommended for seed saving.

Org – Some or all seeds are certified organic.

OSSI – Open Source Seed Initiative - <a href="http://osseeds.org/">http://osseeds.org/</a> - "Today, only a handful of companies account for most of the world's commercial breeding and seed sales. Increasingly, patenting is used to enhance the power and control of these companies over the seeds and the farmers that feed the world. Patented seeds cannot be saved, replanted, or shared by farmers and gardeners. And because there is no research exemption for patented material, plant breeders at universities and small seed companies cannot use patented seed to create the new crop varieties that should be the foundation of a just and sustainable agriculture. Inspired by the free and open source software movement that has provided alternatives to proprietary software, OSSI was created to free the seed—to make sure that the genes in at least some seed can never be locked away from use by intellectual property rights."

**RA** – Regionally adapted seed for particular weather or growing conditions.

SG – Sustainably grown - seeds grown without pesticides, herbicides or chemical fertilizers, but not certified organic.

SSP – Safe Seed Pledge from the Council on Responsible Genetics - <a href="http://www.councilforresponsiblegenetics.org/pageDocuments/MDY2JSPBRC.pdf">http://www.councilforresponsiblegenetics.org/pageDocuments/MDY2JSPBRC.pdf</a>

The Safe Seed Pledge: "Agriculture and seeds provide the basis upon which our lives depend. We must protect this foundation as a safe and genetically stable source for future generations. For the benefit of all farmers, gardeners and consumers who want an alternative. We pledge that we do not knowingly buy, sell or trade genetically engineered seeds or plants. The mechanical transfer of genetic material outside of natural reproductive methods and between genera, families or kingdoms, poses great biological risks as well as economic, political, and cultural threats. We feel that genetically engineered varieties have been insufficiently tested prior to public release. More research and testing is necessary to further assess the potential risks of genetically engineered seeds. Further, we wish to support agricultural progress that leads to healthier soils, genetically diverse agricultural ecosystems and ultimately healthy people and communities."

T – Transparency - provides list of farmers and growers who actually grow the seed or identifies states or countries where seed is produced.

**A NOTE ABOUT SEED LIBRARIES:** "A seed library is a place where community members can get seeds for free or for a nominal fee and is run for the public benefit. Many seed libraries are open in public libraries and community centers. For some communities, getting folks to garden and grow some of their own food is the focus. For other communities, seed libraries may be created as an important step to develop a network of seed savers, to create locally adapted varieties, to respond proactively to climate change or loss of gene integrity due to GMOs or to preserve genetic diversity...." (source: seedlibraries.net).

<u>Community Seed Exchange</u> in Sebastopol is an example of a seed library in Sonoma County that promotes community seed saving and locally adapted varieties. You also may find other seed libraries in a few Sonoma County libraries. Call your local library to find out if this service is provided or visit <u>seedlibraries.net</u> and look for the Sister Libraries list of over 500 world-wide seed libraries – over 100 in California alone.

For help with your garden problems, call the Master Gardener hotline at 565-2608 or visit the Master Gardener information desk in the University of California Cooperative Extension office (133 Aviation Blvd., # 109, Santa Rosa), or ask a Master Gardener at your local farmers market or the Sonoma County Fair or other event. See our website at http://ucanr.edu/sites/scmg/ for additional publications.

The University of California prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities. (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <a href="https://ucanr.org/sites/anrstaff/files/107734.doc">https://ucanr.org/sites/anrstaff/files/107734.doc</a>). Inquiries regarding the University's equal employment opportunity policies may be directed to John Sims, Affirmative Action Contact, University of California, Davis, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 2nd Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1397.