

FRUIT SEEDS

A Pictorial Field Guide

Terry A. Woodger



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*Fruit Seeds:
A Pictorial Field Guide*

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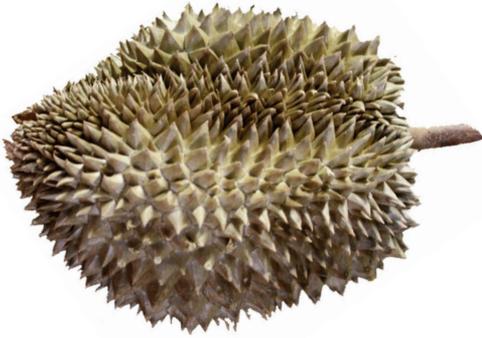
Disclaimer:

Plants have many ways in which they protect themselves from damaging organisms. This protection is found in thorns, sap, toxins, etc. Although the collection, cleaning, and storage of seed can be a rewarding experience, the author takes no responsibility for injury or illness that results from these activities.



CONTENTS

Introduction.....	3	Chapter 4: The Storage of Seed.....	31
Chapter 1: The Collection of Seed	7	References	36
Chapter 2: Fruit-Producing Plants.....	8	Index	37
Chapter 3: How to Thresh and Clean Seed ..	26		



INTRODUCTION

Seeds are often overlooked when it comes to a productive orchard of edible fruit. Most of the fruit producing plants available today are grafted varieties; however, it was not always this way. Many plants will still provide good quality fruit from their seed.

There are always exceptions, and some plants will produce dry, sour, or unpleasant fruit when grown from seed. This should not deter anyone from trying, as many excellent varieties today have come down through the ages from home-grown seed.

This book covers the basics involved in the collection, cleaning and storage of seeds. Although bulbs, corms, and other plant parts can be collected and stored, they are not covered here, so as to not detract from the focus of this volume.

As the number of fruit-producing plants is truly staggering, it is impossible to cover them all. In this field guide, we discuss the most common plant families, including examples of the types of seeds that may be encountered. Where possible, several genera within each family are discussed.

This book uses a system whereby plant family names are all written in capitals (ANNONACEAE), the common names that are not written within the text are in bold (**Custard Apple**), and the botanical names are written in italics (*Annona squamosa*).

In botany, it is the characteristics of the flowers that determine the genera and family to which a plant belongs. This can become extremely complicated, so this field guide makes no mention of the flower types or their individual differences.

Also discussed are a number of methods that can be utilized in the collection of seeds. No one method can be used to collect them all, so different techniques have been developed over time to successfully gather all of the species that are encountered, both in the home garden as well as in the field.

The same development of techniques applies to the cleaning of seeds. There are a number of ways in which common household items can be used effectively to clean seeds. Several of these items are explained in Chapter 3: How to Thresh and Clean Seed.

Storing seeds for use next season can be fraught with hidden problems, such as molds and seed-borers. Chapter 4: The Storage of Seed explains some appropriate methods and procedures that should be followed to avoid disappointment and loss of seed.

Most seeds collected from the garden are suitable for storage from one year to the next, and many of these can be successfully stored at home for many years.

Some things to consider when collecting seeds, is the quantity and the number of plants from which it is collected.