

VEGETABLE SEEDS

A Pictorial Field Guide

Terry A. Woodger



Universal-Publishers
Boca Raton

*Vegetable Seeds:
A Pictorial Field Guide*

Copyright © 2011 Terry A. Woodger
All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without written permission from the publisher

Universal-Publishers
Boca Raton, Florida
USA • 2011

ISBN-10: 1-61233-045-2
ISBN-13: 978-1-61233-045-7

www.universal-publishers.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Woodger, Terry A.

Vegetable seeds : a pictorial field guide / Terry A. Woodger.
p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-61233-045-7 (pbk. : alk. paper)

ISBN-10: 1-61233-045-2 (pbk. : alk. paper)

1. Vegetables--Seeds--Harvesting. 2. Seeds--Cleaning. 3. Vegetables--
Seeds--Storage. 4. Vegetables--Seeds--Pictorial works. I. Title.

SB324.75.W66 2011

635'.0421--dc23

2011032368

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A book of this nature can not be written without the assistance of family and friends. I would like to acknowledge the following people who assisted in many ways to help make this book a reality.

First, I'd like to thank my wife and children for their support and encouragement, without which this book would never have been completed.

I'd also like to thank the following people for their assistance:

Andrew Leighton

Graham and Kathy Evans

Jacqueline Weight

Members of the Townsville Herb Society 2010

Rick and Helen Dyer

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.....	27
Chapter 1: The Collection of Seed	6	References	32
Chapter 2: Vegetables.....	7	Index	33
Chapter 3: How to Thresh and Clean Seed	22		



INTRODUCTION

Seeds are an exciting and beautiful element in vegetable gardening. The productive gardens that can be created from just a handful of these treasures can give a great sense of achievement to a gardener. Although some of these plants can propagate by other means, such as bulbs or division, seeds are the principal way in which vegetables reproduce.

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 plants grown for vegetables around the world 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 (ASTERACEAE), the common names that are not written within the text are in bold (**Lettuce**), and the botanical names are written in italics (*Lactuca sativa*).

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 vegetable 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 seed are its quantity and the number of plants from which it is collected. Collecting seed from only one fruit on one plant can have unforeseen consequences.

An example of possible consequences can be demonstrated with the blue Aztec popping corn, *Zea mays everta*. The seed is a beautiful blue color, but if seed is collected from only one cob each year and replanted,