



BORROW

Select your seeds and bring them home.

PLANT

Grow your seeds and enjoy the results.

RETURN

Harvest seeds and return them to the library for others to use.



Icons

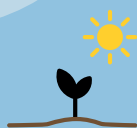
Symbols You May Encounter

Seed packets will often contain a lot of information on how to sow the seeds. You may not see exactly the same information on each packet but it is always worth looking at the packet before starting to use the seeds.

Some of the symbols you may see on these packets include:



Germination Time: This shows when the first sprouts should appear.



Sunlight Requirements: Does the plant need full sun, partial sun, or shade? This can help you choose where to sow it in your garden.



Icons

Symbols You May Encounter



Seed Depth: This is how far down you need to push or bury the seed when planting it. The correct depth makes sure the seed will grow strong stable roots.



Plant Spacing: How far apart to space your seeds from one another when planting. This will depend on how much room a plant needs for its roots underground or the plant above ground.



Row Spacing: How far apart the rows should be if you're planting a farm-style vegetable garden. This leaves space for people to walk/work between rows without damaging the plants.



Glossary

Words You May Encounter

Annual Plant: This plant completes a life cycle in one growing season. They grow from a seed, then produce seeds for the next season and then die off.

Biennial Plant: This plant takes two years to complete a life cycle.

Bolting: A plant which is finishing its life cycle is 'bolting'. It will be focusing on producing seeds. You may see changes in leaf shape or in height. They may produce flowers.

Companion Planting: Planting different types of plants together to help each other. For example, chives are often planted in the corner of plant beds as they repel pests.

Deadheading: Removing a dead or dying flower to encourage a plant to form new flowers.

Direct Sow: Planting the seeds directly where you want them to grow in the garden. For example, carrots and lettuces grow better when sown directly.

Germination: When a seed sprouts and starts to grow.

Germination Rate: The average number of seeds that are likely to sprout. 80% germination means that of 10 seeds, 8 should sprout.



Glossary

Words You May Encounter

Hardening: Seedlings that are grown inside can be taken outside for a short time, then longer, then longer again. This will 'harden' them as they get used to the weather outside. This makes them stronger before being finally planted outside.

Heirloom: A type of seed that has been around for a long time but is no longer used for large-scale planting.

Perennial Plant: These stay evergreen, coming back year after year and can live for a long time.

Propagator: A covered container which is sometimes heated. They are usually filled with earth or compost, used for germinating or raising seedlings.

Seed Scarification: Some seeds need to have their outer coat filed down before planting. This will help germination. This is 'scarification' and is often done with a nail file or sand paper.

Self-Sow: Plants will drop their own seeds and they will grow again without any help.

Stratify: Some seeds need some time in cold treatment to germinate. This can be done using a fridge/freezer.



Glossary

Words You May Encounter

Successive Sowing: Planting a few seeds, then coming back a week or two later to plant more. Repeat this so that you will have a steady supply of crops such as lettuce.

Thin: If you have sown a lot of seeds in one area and a lot are sprouting, it may get very crowded. You may have to 'thin' or pull up seedlings to make room. Sometimes you can replant these seedlings if you are gentle with the roots. If they are seedlings that have leaves you can eat (say carrots), these can actually be eaten as micro greens!

Transplant: When seeds that are grown inside get big and healthy, they can be moved into an outside bed.

Trap Crop: A plant which is grown to attract pests. This will keep them away from other plants.

Volunteer Plants: Plants that self-sow and grow without help. You may need to decide if you want to keep them.



SAVE OUR SEEDS CALENDAR

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beetroot												
Carrot												
Celery												
Chard												
Courgette												
Cucumber												
Green Pea												
Kale												
Lettuce												
Mountain Corn												
Pumpkin												
Radish												
Runner Bean												

SOW

HARVEST



This calendar is intended as a rough guide.
Make sure to follow the instructions
on seed packets.





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the support of Westmeath County Council.

