

Downton Seedy Sunday 2011

How to collect your seeds

1 Leave seeds, seed-heads and pods to mature on the plant. Seeds will begin to look and feel dry and then will be ready to save. Seeds from fruits need to be taken when overripe. Be careful to pick seeds off before they look like they are ready to fall or split open naturally. If pods do "burst" or seeds fall, then save the seed!

2 Dry the seeds by putting them on a paper towel or in a paper bag in a warm, dry place. A sunny windowsill is ideal. Spread the seeds out. Do not use a plastic bag or leave the seeds wet as the pod will not dry out and the seeds may rot.

3 When the seeds are dry and feel "crispy", they are ready to move. Keep the seeds in pods in the paper bag as the pod will split when the time is right. The paper bag will ensure that you don't lose any seeds.

4 Put your seeds in envelopes with as much information about the plant as you know (such as colour, size or sun requirements) and then carefully decant the seeds. If you have loads of a particular type of seed, divide them up into different labelled envelopes, sealed properly.

5 Keep the envelopes in a cool, dry place until Downton Seedy Sunday 2012 when you can come along and swap them for other plant seeds for your garden. Just don't forget where you have put your seeds!

Downton Green Group
Part of the Transition Network

About....

Downton Green Group and Seedy Sundays

Welcome to Downton Green Group's first Seedy Sunday! Seedy Sundays began about 10 years ago in Brighton and are now country wide. With more people saving and swapping seeds from their gardens, biodiversity is increased, thriving plants that suit the local conditions can be shared and gardeners do not have to be so reliant on a few, large seed manufacturers.

Downton Green Group has been up and running for about 2 years and is now part of the world-wide Transition Network. Our main aim is to encourage living in a more sustainable way therefore reducing our carbon footprints! After a very successful Apple Day last October - where villagers swapped apples, preserves, learnt how to make cider and prune apple trees - we thought that a Seedy Sunday event would be a great opportunity for everyone to get together again.

We also meet every last Wednesday in the month for Green Drinks, in the White Horse at 8pm, to talk with like-minded people and plan the next event.

We hope you enjoy Downton Seedy Sunday 2011 and feel inspired to do something to reduce your carbon footprint as well as save your seeds for next year's Downton Seedy Sunday 2012. See our stall for details on saving seed.

www.transitionnetwork.org

Useful Web Addresses

www.foe.co.uk Friends of the Earth

www.permaculture.org.uk UK Permaculture Association

www.spiralseed.co.uk Spiralseed promotes permaculture education

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knobblyveg

www.permaculture-magazine.co.uk

www.downton.org.uk Downton village's very own website

www.britishbee.org.uk British beekeepers Association

www.action21.org.uk An action group based on the UN Agenda 21: to live sustainably without damaging the earth .

www.recycleforwiltshire.com

www.wiltshirewildlife.org

www.recyclethis.co.uk

www.biobees.com A whole new way of looking at beekeeping