

Collecting Seeds

Start looking for seeds in mid spring. You may notice a splendidly coloured flower or an unusual form in your garden or in the wild. Mark it and come back for seed later on.

Remember to get permission to collect seeds in the wild and take less than 10%.

It is important to collect seed when the weather is dry.

Many fruiting bodies just dry and split open. When the stalks and seed pods turn brown, cut the stems and put them head-down in labelled paper bags or used envelopes to finish drying. Often the seeds will fall out on their own and will require little cleaning. Other species might require prying the pod open, crumbling the seed head or gentle crushing which introduces lots of chaff and debris.

Seeds contained within berries will be ripe if the berries detach easily or have changed colour.

To ensure that the seeds from exploding seed pods like those of Impatiens and Hammamelis don't all end up on the ground, they can be enclosed in a small mesh bag and be left to ripen on the plant.

For more detail, see the article posted on [Gardenfundamentals](#) written by Robert Pavlis, ORG&HPS member.