stonnington seed library

The Stonnington Seed Library helps you experience the joy of home growing. Cultivate food and plants at home, share seeds, and build your gardening knowledge. Together, we don't just grow plants, we grow a community.
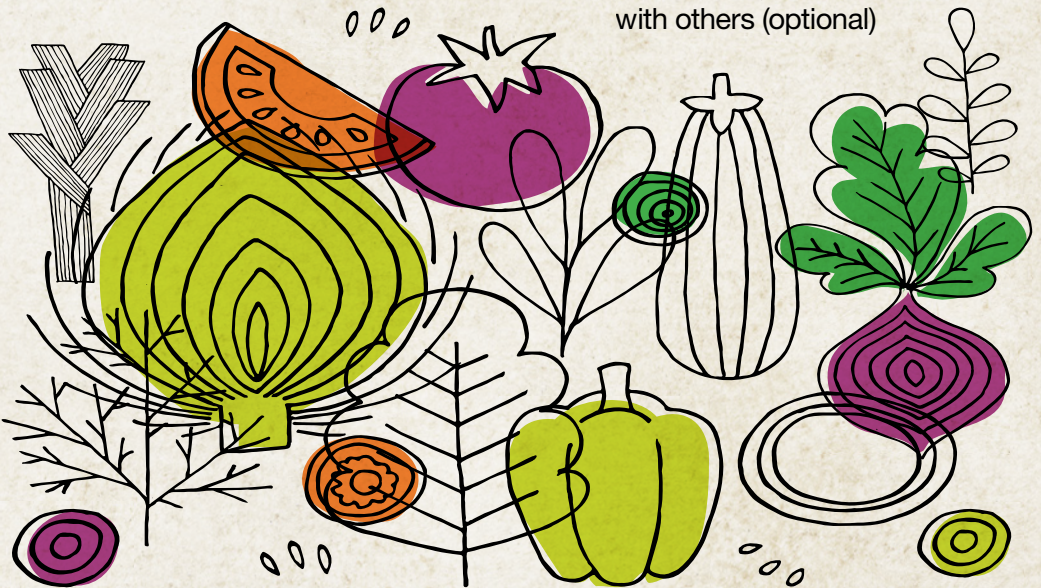
Library members can borrow up to three seed packets per month to plant and grow in their home gardens.

BORROW: Borrow up to three packets of seeds at Stonnington's libraries

GROW: Plant the seeds in your garden

COLLECT: Harvest seeds from your garden

RETURN: Return seeds to the library to share with others (optional)

stonnington.vic.gov.au/ Library/Seed-library

City of STONNINGTON

STONNINGTON LIBRARY
+ INFORMATION SERVICE

Grow seeds at home

Seed Collection Kit

Available for free with your Seed Library membership, the Seed Collection Kit contains everything you need to collect and donate seeds from your garden back to the Seed Library. Ask library staff for more details.

My Smart Garden

For resources to help you grow and collect seeds, join the free sustainable gardening program My Smart Garden.

My Smart Garden helps you grow food and transform your outdoor spaces into a beautiful, productive and resilient garden, year round. The program is supported by the City of Stonnington along with Moonee Valley City Council, Hobsons Bay City Council, City of Maribyrnong, Wyndham City Council and City of Brimbank.

For more information, visit **mysmartgarden.org.au**

Growing seeds

- Sowing seeds in punnets makes it easier to keep seeds moist and protected from pests.

- Use good quality seed-raising mix, or three parts sandy soil (or potting/seed raising mix) to one part compost or worm castings.

- Poke holes no deeper than twice the width of the seed and sow a seed in each hole. Cover with the soil mix and water the seeds gently.

- Seeds can be kept indoors for extra warmth until they sprout, then moved outdoors or to a sunny window sill. Seeds will be ready to plant in about six weeks.

- Sowing seeds directly into beds or pots avoids root damage or transplant shock but makes them more vulnerable to pests.

- Seeds must be kept consistently moist while germinating or they will die. Water gently to avoid blasting little seeds out of the soil or punnet.

Collecting seeds

- Keep the best! By saving seed from your best plants, you will breed plants that are perfectly suited to local conditions.

- Ensure the seed is fully mature before harvest so that it has gained maximum strength from the parent plant.

- Remove the 'chaff' – the stems, leaves and pods that are gathered along with seeds – before storage as it can harbour pests and disease.

- Seeds must be properly dried before storage or they will be destroyed by mould or premature sprouting. Dry seeds that are ready for storage will not be dented by your fingernail.

Use our free Seed Collection Kits to return your excess seeds to the Seed Library for others in the community to grow and enjoy.

Credit: My Smart Garden

stonnington.vic.gov.au/Library/About-us/Seed-Library

Seed Library locations

Malvern Library
1255 High Street, Malvern   **8290 1366**

Phoenix Park Library
30 Rob Roy Road, Malvern East   **8290 4000**

Prahran Square Library
Prahran Square   **8290 3344**
(Northern end), Prahran

Toorak/South Yarra Library
340 Toorak Road, South Yarra   **8290 8000**

**Grow your knowledge and
skills with upcoming gardening
and seed saving programs**

Visit **stonnington.vic.gov.au/library**
for more information