

BATH COUNTY MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
SEED LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

Michael J. Richter  
Director



# SEED LIBRARY





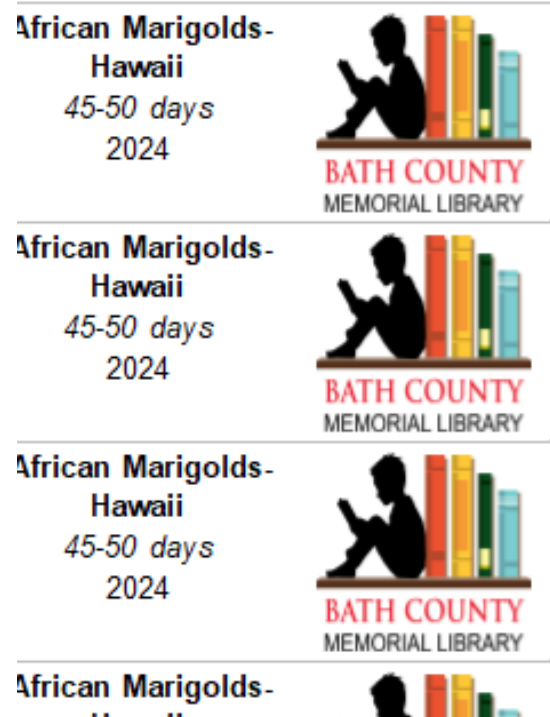
# Food Insecurity

- Bath County Faces Food insecurity even though it celebrates the Kentucky Meat Shower.
- In 1876 Meat fell from the sky in Bath County. The county has a new festival to celebrate the Meat shower.
- However, people are still going hungry in the County.
- The City of Salt Lick, the Salt Lick Free Baptist Church, and Christian Social Services all provide free food giveaways or commodities giveaways to hundreds of people each month.



# What Can the Library Do?

- Seed Library – A consortium approach!
- Started at the Clark County Public Library with then director Julie Maruskin.
- The First year the Library participated we had thousands of seed packets and patrons were exceptionally happy.
- The second year we doubled our packet orders!
- The third year we took over the consortium hosting role!
- Year 4 we had 15 counties work with us to order bulk seeds.
- Now we have 23 counties that collaborate!



# Bulk Seeds Save Money

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- "There ya have it folks. 17 counties; 26 seed varieties; 41978409381740987109387409281734 million seeds; 2 staff members; 2.5 days (we gotta have lunch!!); 3 trips to Dollar General; 2 broken stapler later." Christy Crump

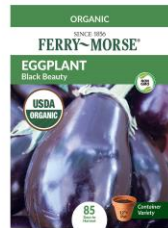
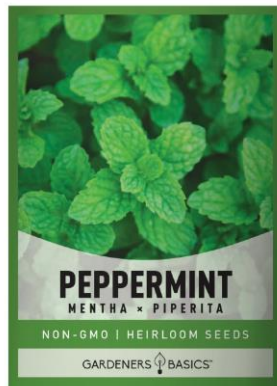
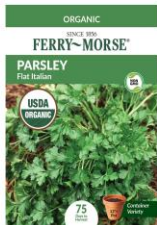
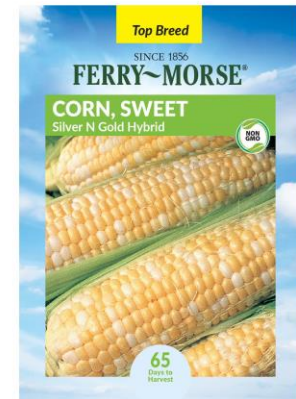
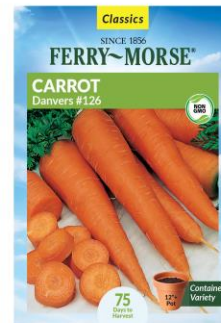
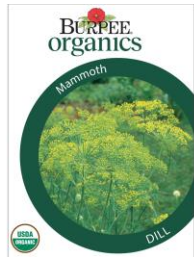
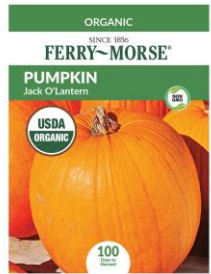
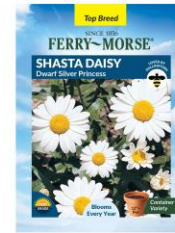
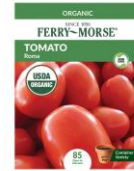
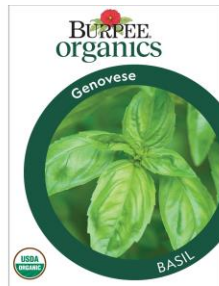
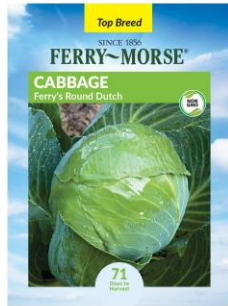
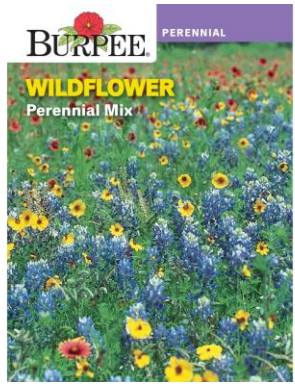


# How Much Does It Cost for Store Seeds?

Wildflowers	\$1.96	Eggplant	\$2.46	Zinnia	\$1.96
Pumpkins	\$2.46	Cucumber	\$2.46	Lavender	\$1.96
Cabbage	\$1.96	Radish	\$2.46	Sunflower	\$1.96
Dill	\$2.46	Pepper	\$2.46	Beans- Bush	\$3.96
Parsely	\$2.46	Carrot	\$1.96	Lettuce - Romaine	\$2.46
Peppermint	\$5.95	Tomato-Roma	\$2.46	Corn – Golden Bantam	\$1.96
Basil	\$2.46	Tomato-German Green	\$6.98		
Cataloupe	\$1.96	Tomato - Ponderosa	\$1.96	Total	\$63.05
Watermelon	\$1.96	English Daisy	\$1.96	Library Cost	\$12.50 (approx.)



# Seed Packets



All these seeds at your Library!

# Branding the Seed Library



## Making it Ours

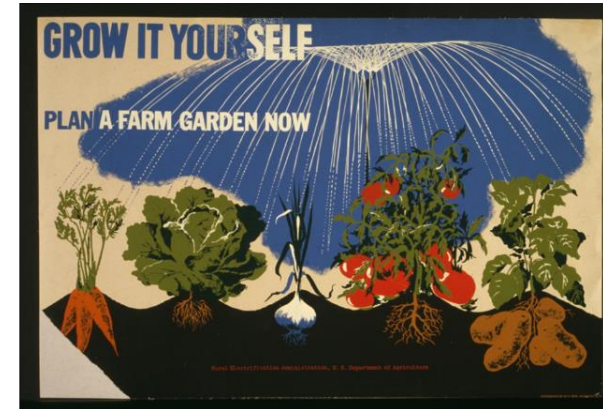
- We took an older painting from the Library collection and retooled it for the Seed Library.
  - Postcards
  - Ink Stamp for bags
  - Advertising

# How much is it worth?

Seed	Yield 10 foot row	Value of Yield	Seed	Yield	Value of Yield
Pumpkins	1 - 3	5.29 - avg	Carrot	60	1.69/lb
Cabbage	5 - 8 heads	0.99/lb	tomato	8 -20 lbs	2.29/lb
Pepper	6 lbs	3.99/3	Lettuce	5 - 10lbs	2.49/1 ct
Cantelope	3 - 6	3.50/ 1 ct.	Bush beans	2 lbs	2.49/ lb
Watermelon	1 - 2	4.99/ 1 ct.	corn	10 - 20 ears	1.25/1 ct
Eggplant	10 - 20	1.69/lb			
Cucumber	15	0.79/ 1 ct.			\$428.22
Radish	60 -100	1.99/bunch			For 13 varieties with 10 feet rows



Seeds	Spoon size	# Seeds
Wildflower, Deer Resistant Mix	1/2 tsp	150
Pumpkin Seeds-Sugar Pie	1 TB	35
Cabbage Seeds - Golden Acre	1/2 tsp	220
Dill Seeds - Dukat	tad--1/4	150
Parsley Seeds - Dark Green Italian Flat-leaf	tad--1/4	150
Peppermint Seeds	drop--1/64 tsp	140
Basil Seeds - Italian Large Leaf	dash--1/8 tsp	150
Melon Seeds - Cantaloupe - Hearts of Gold	1 tsp	60
Watermelon Seeds - Mini - Sugar Baby	1 tsp	50
Eggplant Seeds - Long Purple	dash--1/8 tsp	70
Cucumber Seeds - Straight Eight	1 tsp	95
Radish Seeds - Purple Plum	1/2 tsp	140
Pepper Seeds - Golden Treasure Hybrid	tad--1/4 tsp	90
Carrot Seeds - Danvers 126	tad--1/4 tsp	200
Tomato Seeds- Roma VF	tad--1/4 tsp	120
Tomato Seeds - Aunt Ruby's German Green	tad--1/4 tsp	120
Tomato Seeds - Ponderosa Red	tad--1/4 tsp	120
Bellis (English Daisy) Seeds - Mixed	pinch--1/16	400
Zinnia Seeds - California Giant Mix	1 tsp	60
Lavender Seeds - Common English	pinch--1/16	100
Sunflower Seeds - Mammoth Grey Stripe	1 TB	42
Bean Seeds - Bush - Strike	1 TB	30
Lettuce Seeds - Romaine - Sweet Valentine	dash--1/8 tsp	200
Corn Seeds - Golden Bantam 8	2 TB	75



## How Many Seeds are in a pack?

- Most of the seeds in a pack will easily fill a 30 foot row. Sometimes more. There is enough potential food in the seed library give basic foods that could feed a family of 4 for a year!

# How Much and How Many?

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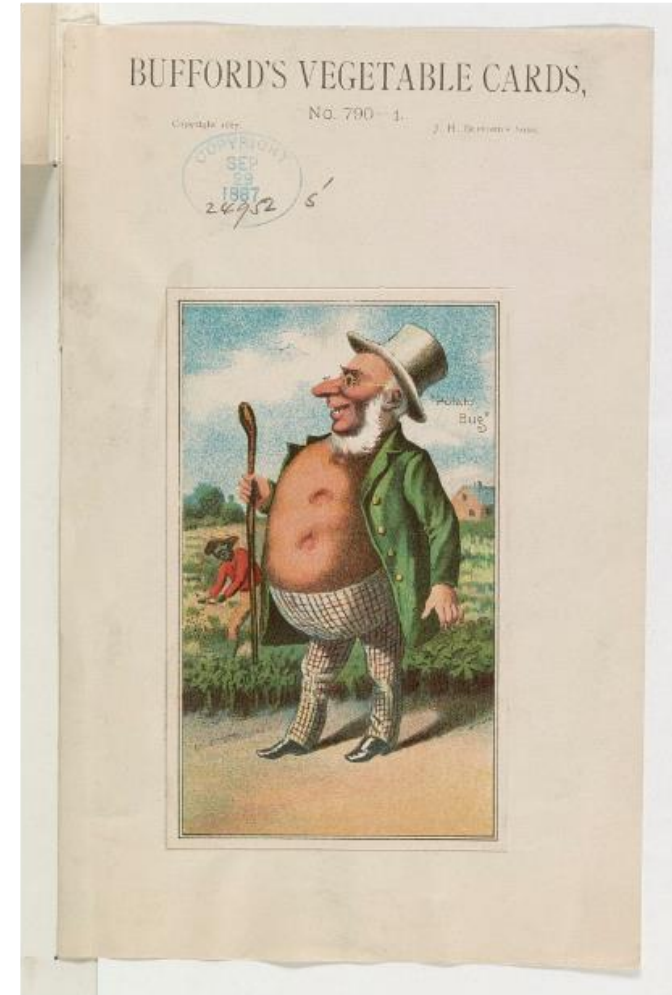
- We try to create two levels for the consortium. The lower level costs about \$500 for the seeds, and provides about 250 packs of seeds for each variety – normally between 22 and 27 total varieties.
- The higher level normally costs somewhere under \$1,000 and provides about 500 packs of each variety of seeds.
- We try to make the Vegetables about 17 of the varieties and Flowers about 6 different varieties.



# How Big Does my Garden Need to Be

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- How big does a garden need to be to feed a person for a year?
  - Growveg.com has a good guide for this question but only for a few staple veggies.
  - It all depends on how much you eat! If you love potatoes you may need up to 200 lbs of potatoes each year! While carrots may be only 20 lbs.
  - Each veggie has different space needs but a 200 foot long row would give you enough Carrots, Tomatoes and Potatoes for a year with lots to share!



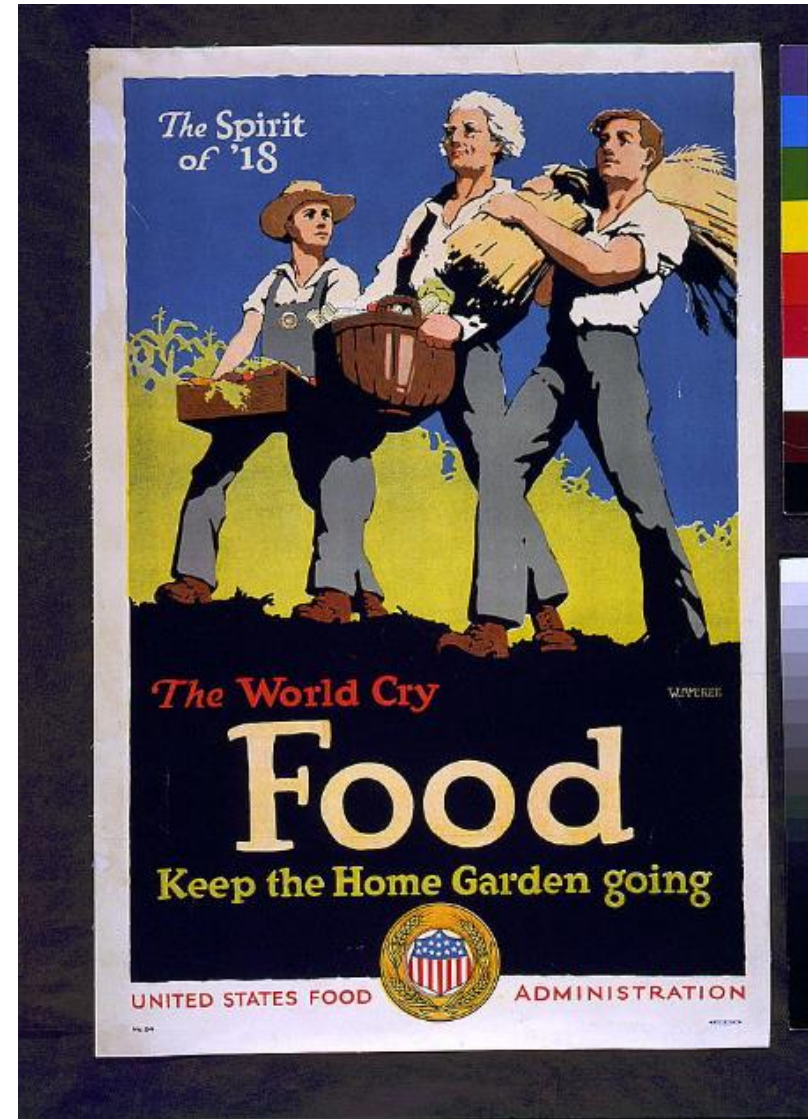
# Websites are out there to help get started!

The screenshot displays the FarmProgress website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a menu icon, a search icon, the FarmProgress logo, a 'SIGN UP TODAY' button, and a 'Sign in' link. Below the navigation bar is a dark horizontal bar with menu items: Crops, Livestock, Markets & Quotes, Farm Business, Marketing, TV and Radio, and Events. Underneath, there are two filter buttons: 'FARM LIFE' and 'COMMENTARY'. The main content area features the 'WISCONSIN Agriculturist' logo and a featured article titled 'Pandemic boosts popularity of gardening'. The article's subtitle reads: 'Badger View: Two-thirds of U.S. adults grow some or all of their fruits and vegetables, a study shows, compared to just one-third before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.' The author is identified as Fran O'Leary, Senior Editor, with a publication date of November 11, 2025, and a '3 Min Read' indicator. To the right of the article is a 'Recommended' section with a 'FARM LIFE' category tag.

All Kentucky Counties have an extension office! And other websites...

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- <https://extension.mgcafe.uky.edu/>
- <https://garden.org/>
- <https://www.growveg.com/guides/growing-enough-food-to-feed-a-family/>
- <https://bonnieplants.com/blogs/garden-fundamentals/how-much-do-i-plant>



# Where Do you Get your Seeds?

- We try to only use seeds from providers who have signed on to the Safe Seed Pledge <https://www.safeseedpledge.org/>
- Right now we are mostly using – because we are already signed up for tax exempt and all the other fun stuff.
- True Leaf
- <https://trueleafmarket.com/>
- Eden Brothers
- <https://www.edenbrothers.com/>



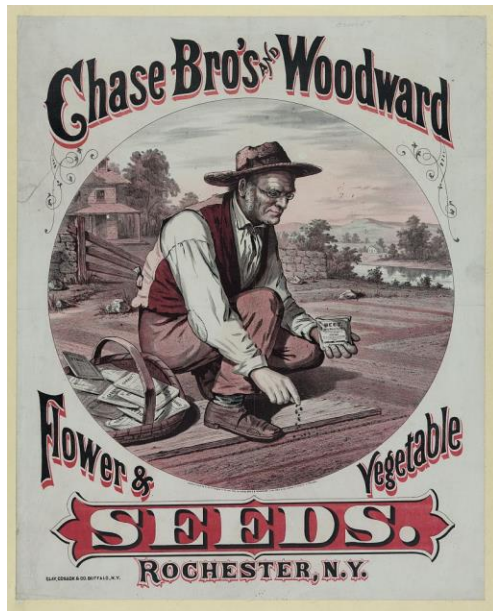
# Other online sites if you are interested!

- <https://www.growveg.com/guides/growing-enough-food-to-feed-a-family/>
- <https://garden.org/>
- <https://gardens.si.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/TimelineAmericanGardenHistory-SmithsonianGardens-1.pdf>
- <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9603381/>
- <https://bonnieplants.com/blogs/garden-fundamentals/how-much-do-i-plant>
- Almost all the images for this presentation were from the Library of Congress.

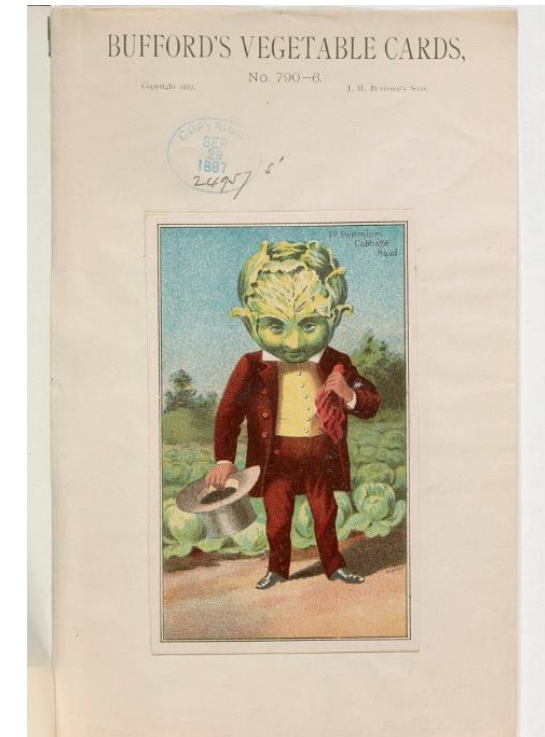


# Contact For More Information or Questions

- [Mrichter@bathlibrary.org](mailto:Mrichter@bathlibrary.org)
- [Hhoward@bathlibrary.org](mailto:Hhoward@bathlibrary.org)



*Don't Be Corny – have a  
seed Library!*



*Lettuce know when you  
want to get started!*