



2026 Seed Catalogue

THE 7TH ANNUAL CBRL SEED LIBRARY

The Cape Breton Regional Library is proud to offer community members free access to high-quality vegetable seeds. The CBRL Seed Library started seven years ago with funding from the Province of Nova Scotia. CBRL thanks the Province of Nova Scotia for continuing to fund initiatives focused on improving food security and social determinants.



Seeds are available to all residents of Cape Breton Regional Municipality and Victoria County with a Cape Breton Regional Library Card, while supplies last. Library cards are always free: to sign up, visit your local branch or go online at <https://cbri.ca/services/library-card-application/>

Seed Library stations can be found at seven library branches: Baddeck, Glace Bay, Ingonish, Louisbourg, New Waterford, North Sydney, and Sydney. Each household may take one packet of up to 10 different seed varieties, for a total of 10 packets per household.

Many thanks to the staff at the Halifax Seed Company and Michelle Smith of Seeds of Diversity, Cape Breton, for their seeds, guidance, and support, and to all of our volunteer seed packagers for their hard work.

BEANS

Beans are high in fibre, iron and essential minerals and form a complete protein when eaten with grains. Easy to grow, beans also benefit your garden by converting nitrogen from the air into a form usable by plants.

Growing Tips: Plant beans in well-drained soil after all danger of frost has passed. Sow seeds 2.5cm (1") deep, 4 cm (1 ½") apart, in rows 50cm (20") apart. For a continual harvest of fresh beans, plant new rows every 10 days until mid-July. An application of Garden Legume Inoculant will offer increased yields. Avoid contact with bean plants when they are damp to prevent the spread of fungal diseases (Halifax Seed, 2021).



Pencil Pod Black Wax Bean

This yellow variety produces excellent quality beans that are 15cm (6") long, round to semi-round, slightly curved, fleshy and golden yellow. The bushy plants reach 45-53cm (18-21") in height and bear a tender bean that is delicious fresh or frozen.

Seed Source: Halifax Seed; Photo Credit: Urban Farmer



Improved Tendergreen Bean

High-yielding plants produce 15cm (6") long, round, dark green beans that are tender and stringless. Resistant to Bean Mosaic Virus, this variety is delicious fresh, frozen or canned.

Seed Source: Halifax Seed; Photo Credit: Halifax Seed

COMPANION FLOWERS

Companion flowers are a great addition to any garden. In addition to being beautiful, these flowers also attract beneficial pollinators and repel pests. As a bonus, borage and nasturtium are both edible! Plant directly in the ground after the last frost, at a seed depth of 1-1.5cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ " - $\frac{3}{4}$ ").



Borage (attracts pollinators, edible)

Borage is an easy-to-grow edible annual with large fuzzy leaves that have a cucumber flavour. The blue flowers can add colour and taste to drinks and salads. Borage deters hornworm and cabbage worms, and is particularly useful planted near tomatoes and strawberries.

Seed Source: Veseys Seed; Photo Credit: Wikimedia



Nasturtium Jewel Double Mix (edible)

Foliage and flowers are edible and often tossed in salads to add a peppery flavour. A natural companion in the vegetable garden, nasturtiums trap and discourage harmful insects. Jewel Dwarf Double Mix has a mounding growth habit that produces masses of brightly coloured double blooms.

Seed Source: Halifax Seed; Photo Credit: Halifax Seed

CUCUMBERS

Cucumbers thrive in warm humid weather. Their cool and juicy fruit is extremely refreshing and may be enjoyed sliced fresh, tossed in salads or preserved as pickles. As cucumbers mature relatively quickly, they are an ideal crop for cool gardens.

Growing Tips: Sow seeds indoors in peat pots and set out in sunny location when all danger of frost has passed and the soil has warmed to 18 to 21°C (65 to 70°F). To prevent transplant shock do not

disturb the roots when transplanting. A layer of landscape fabric around the roots will encourage larger yields by suppressing weed growth and conserving soil heat and moisture. If seeding directly outdoors, sow seeds 4 cm (1 ½"-2") apart, planting them about 0.5 to 1cm (¼" – ½") deep. In small gardens conserve space by growing cucumbers vertically on a trellis (Halifax Seed, 2021).



Wisconsin SMR-58 Cucumber (Pickling)

A popular pickling cucumber, Wisconsin SMR-58 produces a profusion of 15cm (6") long and 6cm (2 ½") wide fruits and are medium green, crisp and straight. Naturally resistant to Cucumber Scab, Black Spot and are Mosaic resistant.

Seed Source: Halifax Seed; Photo Credit: Halifax Seed



Straight 8 Cucumber (Slicing)

Produces a bounty of dark green 18-20cm (7-8") long cucumbers that are tolerant to Cucumber Mosaic Virus. Trellis support is an option.

Seed Source: Halifax Seed; Photo Credit: Halifax Seed

LETTUCE

Lettuce: Lettuce is one of the easiest vegetables to grow and does exceptionally well in our cool Maritime climate! To enjoy garden fresh salads from late spring to the end of autumn, plant several varieties and continue to sow seed every few weeks.

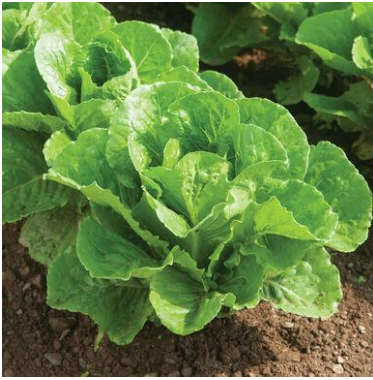
Growing Tips: Lettuce is very hardy and may be planted as soon as the ground can be worked in early spring. Seed may also be sown indoors 4 to 5 weeks prior to planting. If direct seeding, sow seeds about 2cm (1") apart, 3-5mm (1/8"– ¼") deep, spacing the rows 30-45cm (12-28") apart (Halifax Seed, 2021).



Parris Island Cos Lettuce (Heritage)

Popular dark green strain of Cos lettuce (Romaine type). 25-30cm (10-12") heads of slightly savoyed, dark green leaves with creamy white hearts. Popular for baby leaf. Best for spring and fall growing. Tolerant to tip-burn and mosaic, medium resistance to bolting.

Seed Source: Halifax Seed; Photo Credit: Halifax Seed



Grand Rapids Leaf Lettuce

The most popular loose-leaf variety, with medium-green, curly leaves and good taste. Good for early outdoor planting or cold frames. Tip-burn resistant.

Seed Source: Halifax Seed; Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

PEAS

Peas have a high protein content and are a significant source of vitamins.

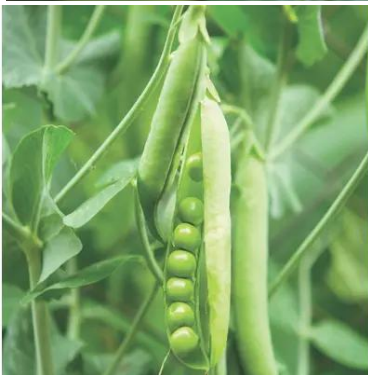
Growing Tips: A cool weather crop that should be planted in early spring as soon as the garden has thawed and the soil is workable. Direct sow seeds outdoors 1-2cm (½"-1") apart in 10-15cm (4-6") wide double rows that are spaced 60cm (24") apart. Place a support trellis between the rows and do not thin the emerging seedlings. Fertilize at planting time with a fertilizer high in phosphorous and potassium (Halifax Seed, 2021).



Sugar Ann

One of the sweetest tasting peas! Sugar Ann is an early bush type that does not require staking. A great choice for smaller gardens or large containers. Enjoy edible pods shelled or whole. Perfect for freezing. Sugar Ann produces 2" pods on strong 24" plants.

Seed Source: Halifax Seed, Photo Credit: Halifax Seed



Grey Sugar Dwarf Snow Pea (Heritage)

This old-time favorite edible-pod snow pea has purple flowers. Though called Dwarf, the vines grow 5-6' tall, so will definitely need support (fence or trellis). They produce 6-7cm (2 ½"-3") flat pods that are pale green, sweet and stringless. Tasty fresh, sauteed or frozen.

Seed Source: Halifax Seed; Photo Credit: Halifax Seed

RADISH

Radishes are a fast-growing cool weather crop with brightly coloured roots packed with iron and potassium.

Growing Tips: Sow seed directly outside as soon as the soil can be worked in early spring. For a continual harvest, re-seed every 7 to 10 days throughout the growing season, planting seeds about 2cm (1") apart, 6 mm (¼") deep in rows spaced 30cm (12") apart. Thin the seedlings to 4cm (1.5") (Halifax Seed, 2021).



Cherry Belle Radish (Heritage)

One of the most popular radish varieties. Enjoy crispy delicious radishes in just 3 weeks! Excels in early spring and fall and is good for cold frame growing. The globe to round-shaped roots have scarlet red skin and tasty white flesh. The tops grow 8cm (3") tall. Direct sow periodically all season for continued harvest.

Seed Source: Halifax Seed; Photo Credit: Halifax Seed

SPINACH

A hardy crop, spinach thrives in the cool weather of spring and autumn. Spinach is an excellent source of Vitamins A and C, iron, potassium, protein and dietary fiber.

Growing tips: Spinach germinates best in cool soil. Plant the seed as soon as the ground can be worked in early spring. A soil pH of 6.5 to 7.4 is ideal. Fall crops may be seeded in late July through August. Plant seeds 2cm (1") apart, 6mm (¼") deep in rows spaced 30-45cm (12-18") apart. Once the seedlings have emerged, thin them to 8cm (3"). Harvest spinach early as plants will bolt (Halifax Seed, 2025).



Bloomsdale Long Standing Spinach

This heavy yielder boasts glossy dark green leaves that are slightly crumpled and stand up very well in hot weather. Direct sow in Full sun. Suitable for containers. 50 days.

Seed Source: Halifax Seed; Photo Credit: Halifax Seed.

SQUASH

There are two main types of squash: summer and winter. Summer squash grow on bush vines, have thin tender skin and are best eaten when still immature. They can be enjoyed stir-fried, sautéed or barbecued. Winter squash grow on vigorous vines and are left on the plants to mature. Their skins are thick, hard and inedible, but allow them to be stored for long periods of time.

Growing Tips: Zucchini are big, fast-growing plants need plenty of moisture and lots of food. Grow them in rich, well-drained soil in full sun. One well-grown plant will provide enough fruits for the average family.



Black Beauty Zucchini (Heritage)

The dark green fruits of this versatile, delicious **summer squash** are borne on open bush-type plants, making them very easy to harvest. Flesh is light green in colour and delicately flavoured. Pick when fruit is 6-8" long for optimum quality.

Seed Source: Halifax Seed; Photo Credit: William Dam Seeds

TOMATO

Native to the Americas, the tomato is an excellent source of Vitamin C, iron and protein. In Northern gardens, it is important to grow varieties which ripen before the autumn frosts.

Growing Tips: Sow seeds indoors 6 to 8 weeks prior to the last frost. A soil temperature around 24°C will encourage quick germination. Ensure that seedlings receive plenty of light to prevent them from becoming tall and leggy. To harden off the plants, set them outside during the day and bring them back indoors at night. Tomatoes love rich soil, so work generous amounts of well-rotted manure or

compost, and some garden lime to help prevent rot, into the soil before planting. Once all risk of frost has passed, plant the transplants in containers or in the garden, deep enough to cover the base of the stem, and spacing them 60-90cm (24-36") apart (Halifax Seed, 2021).



Red Cherry Tomato

The medium-large spreading plants of this cherry variety offer bright scarlet cocktail tomatoes that are 3cm (1 1/2") in size, round, firm and very tasty. The fruits are held in large clusters, making them very easy to pick. Requires support.

Seed Source: Halifax Seed; Photo credit: Halifax Seed



Scotia Tomato

A Maritime tradition, Scotia offers very early globe-shaped fruits that are medium-sized, smooth, firm and upon maturity turn deep red with slightly green shoulders. This dependable crop, a favorite ingredient for green tomato relish, is borne heavily on strong, determinate plants.

Source: Halifax Seed; Photo credit: Halifax Seed