

PRESERVING THE HARVEST



Seed Saving

www.ourfreedomsongco.com

THE DIVERGENCE



Heirloom and hybrid tomatoes are two different types of tomatoes with distinct characteristics.

Here are some fundamental differences between the two:

Genetics: Heirloom tomatoes are open-pollinated varieties that have been passed down, typically for at least 50 years. Because of this, they have stable and consistent traits. Hybrids, on the other hand, are the result of controlled cross-pollination between two different tomato varieties. They are intentionally bred to combine desirable traits from each parent and may not produce stable offspring if their seeds are saved and replanted.

Diversity: Heirloom tomatoes offer a wide range of interesting shapes, fascinating colors, and distinct flavors. Hybrids, on the contrary, are bred for specific traits like disease resistance, high yield, or uniform size and shape.

Seed Saving: Heirloom tomatoes are open-pollinated, meaning their seeds can be saved and replanted, resulting in plants with similar traits. Hybrid tomatoes, however, do not produce offspring with the same traits when their seeds are saved. If you plant seeds from a hybrid tomato, the offspring may not produce the desired characteristics of the parent plant.



THE WHY

Self-sufficiency & Sustainability

Saving tomato seeds from heirloom varieties allows individuals to become more self-sufficient and sustainable. Instead of relying on commercial seed suppliers each year, saving and replanting tomato seeds allows gardeners to produce their own seed stock. This not only reduces dependence on external sources but also empowers individuals to have control over their food production and contribute to local food security.



Cost-Effectiveness

Purchasing new tomato seeds every growing season can add up over time, especially if you have a large garden or want to experiment with different varieties. By saving and storing tomato seeds, you can save money in the long run and have a constant supply of seeds without having to make additional purchases.



Crop Resilience

By saving and replanting seeds from locally adapted heirloom varieties, you can promote the resilience of your tomato crops. The cycle of planting and saving seeds means that your plants can develop even greater resistance to pests, diseases, and the local environmental factors, making them well-suited for specific growing conditions!





THE PROCESS

Here's a step-by-step guide on how to save tomato seeds:

01

Slice

Cut the fully ripe, healthy tomato in half horizontally, exposing the seed cavities.

02

Scoop

Scoop out the seeds: Use a spoon or your fingers to scoop out the seed gel along with the seeds into a clean container.

03

Ferment

Ferment the seeds: Fill the container with water, ensuring there is enough to cover the seeds. Leave the container at room temperature and allow it to sit undisturbed for about 2-4 days. During this time, a layer of mold will form on top of the water, and the seeds will ferment.

04

Stir & Rinse

After the fermentation period, stir the mixture to break up the mold layer. Viable seeds will sink to the bottom, while any remaining pulp, mold, and unviable seeds will float. Pour off the floating debris and repeat this process several times until only clean, sunken seeds remain.

05

Dry the seeds

Spread the cleaned seeds out on a labeled plate or a fine mesh screen to dry. Place them in a well-ventilated area away from direct sunlight. Stir or flip the seeds occasionally to ensure they dry uniformly. Allow the seeds to dry for about 1-2 days or until they are completely dry and brittle.

06

Store

Once the seeds are fully dried, transfer them to a small envelope or airtight container. Label the container with the tomato variety and the date of collection. Store the seeds in a cool, dry place away from moisture and direct sunlight. A refrigerator or a freezer can be ideal for long-term storage.



Saving tomato seeds are definitely more simple than I imagined it to be! We hope this resource encourages and benefits you greatly!



Thank you!

Connect with us!

 [ourfreedomsongco@gmail](mailto:ourfreedomsongco@gmail.com)

 [Ourfreedomsong](https://www.youtube.com/Ourfreedomsong)

 [Ourfreedomsong](https://www.instagram.com/Ourfreedomsong)

 [Ourfreedomsong](https://www.facebook.com/Ourfreedomsong)

 [Ourfreedomsong.com](https://www.Ourfreedomsong.com)

