

## **Welcome to Permaculture Sydney West Seed Savers and Seed Bank**

- We are a community organization dedicated to the health and vitality of the earth one method being through the preservation and promotion of organic heritage seeds.
- We are committed to maintaining, evaluating and keeping records for all the edible, medicinal and useful crops that can be grown in our local area.
- We are a learning centre and network encouraging local food and seed production.

Our seed saving members are local custodians who trial our seed varieties and let us know how they did in their particular gardens and micro-climates. These growers have, through their interest, consistency and dedication in our "Seed Savers" program, and through our "Seedy Kids" program to build up what is the largest community seed bank in NSW, possibly nationally, of a diverse, organic heritage, organic seed collection, adapted to, and providing, our community local areas.

In the past few years, we have been reaching out to communities and teaching how to save our own seeds. Many local communities and groups have taken advantage of this and we feel that we have successfully completed an important part of our mission by helping many of these groups with sound advice and clean seeds.

We are thrilled delighted to be able to encourage people to connect locally wherever they can to save seeds and will continue to support or donate seeds to such community initiatives, through our Clean Seeds Network.

If you'd like to become a member of PSW and join our seed savers please check out the main page for details.

PSW seedsavers meet on the 4th Saturday of each month from 9am-1pm, except December and January when we have our annual break.

- We host seed saving workshops.
- Support people who want to learn about seed saving.
- Send seeds to local community initiatives and groups across Western Sydney.

### **Why do we need Seed Groups and Seed Banks?**

Currently, many things point to the looming importance of local food security. We can no longer take food for granted because of unlabelled GMO content, increasing reliance on pesticides and synthetic fertilisers, the increasing monopolisation of global giant agricultural corporations taking over seed ownership, economic breakdown, environmental destruction and climate change.

The two most important keys to food security are local production and crop diversity. In these challenging times, more so now than ever, local seed savers need to work together to keep our seed integrity and food supply available for all. Individuals, and local seed banks champion the idea that seeds should stay in the public domain.

There are millions of people around the world taking that first small step to grow their own food, and to make educated choices about the best seeds to keep alive. Who better to shape agriculture than 'we the people' promoting grass roots preservation of our seed heritage. We can work together so that growing food is less about making money and more about making health.

Sustainable agriculture works with nature's fertility and abundance. We can honour this in both urban and country areas by embracing safe and sustainable ways of feeding ourselves and honour the memory of Bill Mollison and all those wonderful pioneers like him who have worked so tirelessly in the movement towards sustainable clean food to be available to all.