

"Seed Bank," p. 172-173. **Junior Master Gardener, Teacher/Leader Guide.** Texas A&M University, 1999.

California State Standards:

Science Kindergarten: 2c; 4d Science 2nd Grade 2f; 4c Science 4th Grade: 3c

🌱 Seed Bank

Objective: To collect seeds from various fruits and vegetables.

Time: Ongoing.

Materials: Seeds from vegetables, paper towel, airtight containers.

After the beds are in place, one ongoing gardening expense is to buy plants and seeds each season. Your JMG'ers can create their own "bank" of seeds to collect a variety for their home or JMG garden.



Tell them that they will begin a JMG Seed Bank. Explain that a seed bank is like a regular bank—they can't just take seeds out, they also must put seeds in. Saving seeds is a way to collect seeds that cost nothing. Most people throw away the seeds of vegetables they eat.

Instruct the gardeners to keep some seeds next time they eat veggies or fruits with seeds inside, such as tomatoes, peppers and watermelons. The steps: Remove the seeds from the food and allow them to dry on a paper towel. Label and store the seeds in an airtight container in a cool, dry place (a refrigerator is perfect). Seeds encased in a fleshy pulp, such as tomatoes, require a little more effort but work very well. Squeeze the tomato pulp into a jar half-full of water. Then shake the jar vigorously to help separate the seeds from the pulp. Place the mixture in a strainer and spray it repeatedly with water to further remove the pulp. After the pulp is removed, the tomato seed can be allowed to dry on a paper towel also.

Explain to the gardeners that the seeds are offspring of the parent plants. They will be similar to the parents just as people are similar to their parents. Soon the group will have a large assortment of seeds to trade and use in gardens.