

SEED SEARCH

You can easily buy flower seeds, but it is far more interesting to collect them yourself. Seeds come in a fascinating variety of shapes and sizes, depending on how different plants scatter them. You can gather flower seeds throughout the summer and tree seeds in the autumn. Here are some of the more interesting types of seeds that you may find.

Collecting seeds

Look for seeds once a flower's petals have died and a seed head has formed. The seeds are ripe when they are brown. Cut off the seed head and shake the seeds into a paper bag. Put the seeds in a small envelope, seal and label it, and keep it in a cool, dark place.

POPPY

Poppies have seed pods like pepper pots. When the wind blows, the fine seeds are shaken out of the seed heads.

LOVE-IN-A-MIST

This flower has puffed-up seed pods. The seeds are ripe when the pods turn brown.

SWEET PEA

Collect the seed pods when they are turning brown. Snap them open to find the seeds.

HONESTY

Honesty has flat, round seed pods that turn silver when the seeds are ripe. Rub the pods between your fingers to release the seeds.

Tree seeds

It is best to look for tree seeds early in the autumn, before the birds and animals have removed them. Store tree seeds in a cool, dark place until the end of winter, then plant them.

SYCAMORE

Each set of "wings" carries two seeds.

HOLLYHOCK

Pick the seed heads from the tall stems once the flowers have died.

MARIGOLD

Marigolds have tight clusters of crescent-shaped seeds which turn brown as they ripen.

ACORNS

These are the seeds of the oak tree.

SUNFLOWER

The striped seeds are packed together in unusual patterns on the massive flowerheads.

PLANE TREE

The seeds are encased in unusual "bobbles".

HORSE CHESTNUTS

The shiny seeds are carried in prickly cases.