

Happy (almost) new year from the Voorheesville Seed Library!

It's never too early to start dreaming about planting our next gardens!

Upcoming seed library discussions:

- **February 26 (Wed) 7pm** - discussion about starting seeds indoors and tomato fostering program (come help us start tomato seedlings for the community)
- **April 29 (Wed) 7pm** - discussion about planting outdoor garden

New seeds:

As always, I try to find interesting and fun seeds for the seed library. Here are some some seeds that will be arriving at the library in a few weeks:

- 1. Chinese Python Snake Beans** - from China - these beans grow to 5 feet long and 1 1/2 inches thick! When harvested less than 3 feet long, they can be used like green beans or summer squash. When harvested larger, the inside can be scraped out and used in the same way as tomato paste.
- 2. 1500 year old cave bean** - This rare bean was found in a clay pot sealed with pitch in a New Mexico cave and were 1500 years old! The beans grow on 10 foot vines and are white and maroon.
- 3. Chinese pink celery** - This celery is bubble gum pink and is originally from China. It is much easier to grow than traditional celery!
- 4. Walking stick kale** - Originally grown on the Isle of Jersey in Europe, they grow up to 12 feet tall. The stalks can be varnished and turned into canes! Pick the kale young and small if you want to eat it or watch it grow to enormous heights and sizes!
- 5. Bateekh Samara Melon** - The seeds of this melon are endangered due to war in Iraq, where this melon is from. You can grow this melon and save the seeds and help preserve this endangered melon, which is green inside with a citrus taste. The name means "old melon from Samarra" (a city in Iraq).
- 6. King Tut Purple Pea** - These peas were supposedly taken from King Tut's tomb. The pea pods are purple, and the flowers are purple, too.
- 7. Komatsuma Spinach Mustard** - a Japanese "superfood" with twice as much calcium as whole milk, high levels of beta carotene, and vitamins A, C, and K. Tastes like spinach and is mild and tender.
- 8. Yuxi Jiang Bing Gua Squash** - This squash is found in central America and China! It can be eaten as a tender summer squash or, if left to mature, as a sweet winter squash. They grow to 3-8 pounds.
- 9. Safflower - dark orange-red** - The petals of this flower make an excellent saffron substitute and is also called "poor man's saffron". The prickly feel of this plant can also be used as natural fencing to keep animals out of the garden.
- 10. Stevia** - Dried stevia leaves are used to sweeten drinks and desserts.

I hope your new year is sweet and happy.

Sharon Miller, Coordinator
Voorheesville Seed Library