

Seed Libraries in Navajo and Apache Counties 2022-2024

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2022 Holbrook Seed Library

Quick Statistics:

- 2022: 50 varieties of seed donated (approximately 500 packets of seed)
35 people took seed for a total of 300 packets of seed
- 2023: 300 varieties of seed donated (approx. 1500 packets of seed)
50 people filled out seed form, and additional seed was taken, leaving 270 packets remaining
200 packages of seed donated to community gardens
- 2023/2024: 30 volunteers and Master Gardeners packaged 2200 seed packets
- 2024: 200 varieties of seed purchased or donated (approx. 2500 seed packets)
- 2025: Community Outreach on seed packet use will begin



2023/2024 seed Packaging

Timeline:

- 2022– Installed first seed library at Holbrook Extension Office. Snowflake Library received seeds but was not able to offer them due to Covid restrictions. Grew first round of seed at two locations in Navajo County over summer. Contacted by partners to add locations in 2023/2024
- 2023 – Second year of seed library at Holbrook, added Extension Office in St. Johns as a location. Added a “cover crop” seed library at Holbrook.
- 2024 – Seed was distributed to Holbrook, St. Johns, Snowflake, Show Low, and Pinetop-Lakeside. Five more libraries in Apache and Navajo counties requested to be added to the list for seed distribution in 2024/2025

Challenges:

- Changing seed laws and legal requirements to use only heirloom or non-patented seed is increasing seed costs
- Packaging materials are becoming more expensive
- More libraries requesting assistance but are limited by expensive supplies and seed
- Coordinating seed packaging events and getting seed to the libraries before spring was difficult



Pinetop Library Display- Photos by Betsy Peck

2021 -2024 Seed Donations:

Seed Savers Exchange
Hudson Valley Seed Co.
Sow Right Seeds
Native Seed/SEARCH
Double T Bar Farm
Bill Cook – Greenlee County
Navajo County Cooperative
Extension – Holbrook Seed Garden

2023/2024 Seed Vendors:

True Leaf Market
Seed Savers Exchange

Partners:

Show Low Public Library
Snowflake Public Library
Pinetop Lakeside Public Library
Navajo County Master Gardeners

Seed Librarians feedback:

- “So far things have been going very well. The patrons loved the Seed exchange that we hosted in the spring. There has been a lot of activity with people checking out seeds. We have had 103 forms and 511 seed packets checked out from the seed library beginning from our seed exchange...” Heather Hatcher – Snowflake Public Library
- “I am pleased to say our seed library has been well used. Just checked and 120 patrons have checked out at least 4 packets. We limited it to 4 per visit and many came back for a second batch.” Betsy Peck – Pinetop Lakeside Public Library