

Smart Seed Saving Tip For Best Results

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This is a tip you can use throughout the garden season, from spring to fall. I'll show you how to get the very best seeds for seed saving and planting next year.

Choosing the Best Seeds

Seed saving isn't just a matter of gathering the seeds at the right time (that's a subject for another post), but choosing from your very best flowers.

Ever notice how the quality of blossoms can vary within the very same plant? Just because they're on the same plant doesn't mean their genetics are identical. When it comes to flowers, it's much like birds: research confirms the most beautiful of the bunch tend to be the healthiest and best possible parents.

That's where this tip comes in handy.

I keep scraps of ribbon and twine in the gardening shed. When I notice a bloom that is particularly fabulous, I mark it with a ribbon. This will be the one I use for seed saving when the time is right. *I chose this white tulle gift bag for the sake of the photo, but I would normally select something much more subtle.*



The ones shown here are my beloved poppies. I actually started this plant with seeds from a neighbor's garden. I had my eye on one particularly massive bloom and, months later, snipped off the seed pod on a dry, cool fall day. Planted the following spring, they proved to be as beautiful as the parent plant.

Without the ribbons, by the time plants have gone to seed, it would be nearly impossible to recall which blossoms were the total show stoppers.

Keep some ribbon handy and you'll end up with the best seeds.