

Storing\_Seed\_Long\_Term\_2004.txt

I dry the seed thoroughly on trays. then put in coin envelopes together in a long narrow box with the top off (like the box the coin envelopes came in or something like that). I leave that open box out somewhere in the house for 3-4 months in the winter, when houses tend to be very dry inside.

Then I take 100 seeds out per variety and put into a different coin envelope (or the old coin envelope, being careful to separate the new seeds from the old seeds. most old seeds get composted at this point).

This goes into the freezer. the rest gets traded, etc. I take all my seeds of a type (like peppers), and hold them together with a fat rubber band. I do this will all varieties (eg eggplants, tomatoes, celery, etc). This makes it easier to file and get again later.

Then I take each rubber banded clump of coin envelopes and put each into a plastic shopping bag. (this is very high tech sounding, i can tell :) ). it is 1/2 for me. then i tie the top off losely, and stick in the freezer. if your freezer is not self-defrosting, i'd tie the plastic bag off pretty good, so as not to let ice in the bag.

btw, i used to freeze my peas and beans too, but i have way too many now, and my freezer is so small. it's dry enough here that beans last for a LONG time, so i feel justified. but just so you know you can freeze those too.

for the beans, dry in an open wicker type basket (i buy old easter baskets at garage sales for 5-10 cents) for many months (i dry mine until about feb-march) before storing in the freezer or in old baby food jars.

if you don't have alot of seeds, you can also store the coin envelopes in ziplock bags, a few clumps of them.

one note of caution: when taking a seed packet out of the freezer, wait

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till the packet is at room temp before opening the packet if you are not going to plant all the seeds in the packet. this is because if you open a cold seed packet, water will condense partially on the seeds. this is fine if you are planting them, but not fine if you intend to stick the packet back in to the freezer after only removing a few.

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