

INTERMEDIATE

Beets and Swiss Chard

Beets and Swiss Chard are from the same species, and will cross pollinate. They should be separated with wind-proof caging, bagging, or a distance of 8 km to ensure purity. Beet plants will not self-pollinate and should be separated in groups with twice as many female as male plants.

Beets and Swiss chard have to over-winter for seed production. Allow the seeds to fully mature and become dry on the plants before harvesting. The seeds can be easily rubbed off the stems.

Parsley

Parsley can cross with other parsley varieties and should be separated by 2km. Allow seeds to mature and dry on plants before harvesting

Parsnips

Parsnips will cross-pollinate between varieties so save seed from only one variety each year and separate by 1.5km. Parsnips produce the flower stalk in the second year. When the flower umbel begins to turn brown, cut the stem and hang to dry in folded newspaper. When dry, tap to release the seed.

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Carrots

Carrots are biennial, meaning that seeds can't be harvested until the plant flowers in the second year after planting

Carrots are dependent on insect pollination and will cross-pollinate. They should be separated by 1.5km for safe isolation. If bagging or caging is used to separate varieties, hand pollination is required.

Allow seed heads to ripen on the plant. When flower heads begin to dry and turn brown, carefully cut heads and place in folded newspaper. Allow seed heads to dry completely, then place in a lidded jar and shake vigorously to release the seed.

Peppers

Pepper varieties of the same species will cross-pollinate, but there is no crossing between varieties of different species. You can safely grow one hot or sweet pepper (*C. annuum*) and one Tabasco pepper (*C. frutescens*) without danger of cross pollination. Peppers within the same species should be isolated by 150m, or caged to prevent insect pollination.

Once peppers have changed colour, pick and cut open. Scrape the seeds out onto a plate (seeds will stick to fabric or paper) and allow them to dry in a non-humid shaded place. If you can bend the seeds, they are not dully dry- they should be brittle enough to break when manipulated.