



BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

REBECCA SWANGER MA MLIS
SIMPSON LIBRARY
16 NORTH WALNUT STREET
MECHANICSBURG PA 17055

07-10-14

Dear Rebecca,

Thank you and the others for taking time to meet with us last week to discuss your library's "Seed Library" project. We found it a very useful discussion about how we can balance your desire to provide a positive gardening and seed saving experience for your members and the department's statutory responsibilities under the PA Seed Act.

As agreed to at the meeting, I have prepared the draft protocol below for your consideration. Please review and offer comments at your convenience.

Seed Libraries – Draft Protocol

I. Library procures licensed and properly labeled seed to give away to its patrons.

- **How the library assembles this initial Seed Library is up to them**
 - **solicit patrons, local volunteer groups, social groups, churches, etc. for seed packets meeting their specifications (traditional, heirloom, organic, ect.)**
 - **monetary donations to purchase seeds from local retail stores in community.**
 - **seeds donated by local retail stores or seed distributors**

II. Patrons "check-out" seeds from the Seed Library

- **Library gathers participant's contact information as a member of the "Library Seed Club" (or whatever name the library chooses to call this group)**
- **Library provides simple 'informational cards' for each type of seed given out.**
- **Library provides information on seed-saving and saving/storage techniques.**

III. Club members take the seeds home and plant and grow them.

- **Care for and harvest seeds doing their best to follow library guidelines for producing good seeds.**
- **Fill out "informational cards" provided by the library to help the next growers know what they are getting and any other useful information.**



BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

IV. Library establishes mid-season and/or post-season seed swap day(s)

- **Library acts as a meeting place for individuals to swap or trade harvested/saved seeds with other members**
- **The Library promotes that these seeds be planted the next season and any resulting harvested seeds be used in the next season's seed swap(s)**
- **Returns to the Library will not be allowed. Members may only "check-out"/trade/swap seeds with each other.**

V. Each year the Library starts with "fresh" seeds meeting their specifications

- **Ensures there will be seeds available to plant**
- **Encourages new participants to participate and increase the community of growers.**

I look forward to hearing your thoughts as we work toward a positive resolution of this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Zook".

Johnny Zook

Johnny Zook | Seed Program Supervisor
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture | Bureau of Plant Industry
2301 North Cameron Street | Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717.787.4894 | Fax: 717.705.6518 | Email: jzook@pa.gov
www.agriculture.state.pa.us