



The Carnivorous Plant Society

Seedbank Policy

Version 1.1 – 21st February 2023

Introduction

The objects of the Carnivorous Plant Society are to advance the education of the public in the study of carnivorous plants and to promote the conservation of such plants.

The Seedbank is an extensive repository of carnivorous plant seed made available for cultivation. The Society has operated a Seedbank for over 40 years and it has been recognised as one of the foremost such collections in the world.

The aims of the Seedbank are:

- To maintain a sustainable repository of viable seed for as wide as possible a range of carnivorous plants
- To make available a reliable source of seed to promote preservation of carnivorous plants in cultivation

This document sets out how the Society will manage the Seedbank in accordance with these aims.

Principles of operation

The basic principles of the Seedbank's operation are as follows:

- The Seedbank holds (hopefully viable) seed for as wide a range of carnivorous plants as possible
- Members are entitled to an allocation of free seeds each year, and may also purchase a small number of additional packets
- Members are encouraged to donate seed from their own plants, and may exchange donated seed for additional Seedbank seeds
- Donations of seed by non-members are welcome, but exchange of seed is at the discretion of the Seedbank Manager.

Member access

Access to the Seedbank is widely considered a major driver of Society membership. However, it should be recognised that the Seedbank exists for educational and conservation purposes and not primarily as a membership benefit.

Members currently receive an annual Seedbank entitlement as follows:

- Up to four packets of seed free of charge
- Up to two additional packets of seed @ £0.50 / packet

To maintain the diversity of the Seedbank and to ensure fair access, members may only order one packet of each seed variety per year. Requests for multiple packets of the same seed will be declined. Orders outside each member's annual entitlement are only permitted in exchange for seed donations (see below).

A small charge is made to cover the cost of postage and packaging for each order.

Donation exchange

To maintain the viability of the Seedbank, members are encouraged to donate fresh seed from their own plants. Members may obtain one additional packet of Seedbank seeds in exchange for every **two** donations of seed **of different varieties**.

Multiple packets of donated seed of the same variety count as a single donation for exchange purposes.

For example:

Donation	Additional Seedbank entitlement
2 packets <i>Sarracenia flava</i> var. <i>maxima</i>	None
1 packet <i>Sarracenia flava</i> var. <i>maxima</i> 1 packet <i>Sarracenia flava</i> var. <i>ornata</i>	1 packet
2 packets <i>Sarracenia flava</i> var. <i>maxima</i> 1 packet <i>Sarracenia flava</i> var. <i>ornata</i>	1 packet
1 packet <i>Sarracenia flava</i> var. <i>maxima</i> 1 packet <i>Sarracenia flava</i> var. <i>ornata</i> 1 packet <i>Dionaea muscipula</i> 1 packet <i>Drosera collinsiae</i>	2 packets

In general, there are no restrictions on which varieties of donated seed may be exchanged. However, the Seedbank Manager has discretion to refuse exchange where the Seedbank already holds ample stock of the donated variety, or where the exchange would be inequitable (e.g. two very common varieties for one very rare / desirable one). If in doubt, please check with the Seedbank Manager before donating seeds.

Non-members are welcome to contribute seed to the Seedbank. There is no automatic entitlement to Seedbank seeds in exchange; this would be at the discretion of the Seedbank Manager.

Acceptable use of seed

Seedbank seed is made available to promote the cultivation of carnivorous plants. It is not a commercial source of seed.

Seed from the Seedbank may not be re-sold under any circumstances. To do so is a breach of the trust of members who have generously donated seed. Members who have unused Seedbank seed are encouraged to share it with friends or other members.

Plants raised from Seedbank seed may be sold. Commercial growers who are members of the Society are entitled to the same access to the Seedbank as other members, but are expected to contribute donations of seed. In particular, commercial growers are expected to donate back a reasonable proportion of any seed collected from plants raised from Seedbank seed.

Breach of these terms may result in suspension of access to the Seedbank.

Donation guidance

Seed for donation must be:

- Mature
- Dry
- Clean and free of non-seed debris (stems, seed-cases etc.)
- Packed securely in appropriate portions in **paper** envelopes (**not plastic**)
- Clearly labelled with the plant identity and date of harvesting

Seed loses viability over time. Seed donations should be sent as soon as possible after harvesting to give recipients the best chance of successful germination.

Plant identity information must accurately and unambiguously identify the seed giving as much detail as possible, including location details or hybrid parentage as applicable. Abbreviations should be avoided wherever practicable.

Open-pollinated seed should be labelled as such.

Glassine paper envelopes are preferred for seed donations as they are tough, somewhat water-resistant, and make the contents visible. The Society can provide suitable glassine envelopes free-of-charge for use in donations (a small charge may be made for postage).

If struggling for space when labelling seed packets, number the packets and include a cover slip giving further details.

Donations must include the identity of the donor. Anonymous or pseudonymous donations will not be accepted.

The Society reserves the right to dispose of any donated seed not conforming to the requirements above.

The donor is responsible for the safe shipment of donated seeds to the Seedbank, including complying with any postal, customs and/or phytosanitary requirements applicable when sending seeds to the UK from their location. The Society accepts no liability for seeds lost, delayed, damaged, confiscated or destroyed in transit.

Whilst we accept that occasional mistakes occur, deliberately or repeatedly submitting mis-identified seed compromises the Seedbank's integrity and may result in withdrawal of access.

Portions

The quantity of seed in a packet will vary due to a number of factors including the seed characteristics (e.g. many *Drosera* produce abundant tiny seeds), how donated seed is packed by the donor, and in some cases the relative rarity of the seed.

We would be grateful if donors could portion seed for donation, rather than sending seed in bulk, as re-packaging bulk donations is burdensome for the Society's volunteers (although we would rather receive an unportioned donation than no donation at all!).

Where practicable, donors are encouraged to portion seed at around 10-20 seeds / packet. For varieties with very tiny seed, a 'pinch' per packet is usually appropriate. Donors may wish to include a larger quantity per packet for older seed, varieties where germination rates are typically low, and for those varieties that produce very large seed quantities.

Where the Society purchases seed in bulk for reasons of economy (see *Acquisition of seed* below), it will be portioned out in accordance with these guidelines.

Acquisition of seed

In general, the majority of Seedbank stock should be sourced from donations. However it may be appropriate to purchase seed where coverage of particular taxa is very limited or viability of remaining stock is questionable.

In accordance with the Seedbank's conservation and educational purposes, priority for seed acquisition should be given to naturally-occurring species, hybrids and clones, especially those with known provenance e.g. named locations. Seed of hybrids, clones and cultivars developed solely in cultivation should not be purchased.

Where seed is purchased, the source of the seed and the price paid per packet must be recorded in the Seedbank database.

Stock management

To maintain viability, it is essential that the Seedbank is appropriately stored and that stock is rotated (older seed issued first).

The Seedbank Manager has discretion to distribute additional seed free of charge to members in good standing (particularly those who have repeatedly contributed seed) to avoid older seed losing viability and being wasted. In this case it is expected that members donate back fresh seed from any plants successfully raised.

Disclaimer

The Seedbank operates on the basis of trust. The Society relies on donors and other suppliers to provide viable and correctly-identified seed, and successful germination and development of plants depends on a variety of factors outside the Society's control.

The Society accepts no responsibility for seed that is mis-identified, fails to germinate, or does not develop as expected. Returns are not accepted and the Society is unable to offer refunds.

Queries

For any queries relating to the Seedbank, contact the Seedbank Manager via seedbank@thecps.org.uk.