



RETROSUBURBIA

THE DOWNSHIFTER'S GUIDE TO A RESILIENT FUTURE

CHAPTER 20: SEED SAVING AND BACKYARD NURSERY

QUESTIONS:

- Have you got a 'green thumb'? What makes you think this?
- What is your favourite heritage vegetable and why?
- What successes have members of the group had with seed saving? What issues have occurred? Are there particular vegetables that are easy to propagate in your area?
- What are some of the problems associated with large multinational companies owning seeds?
- Is seed saving a political act?

ACTIVITIES:

- Practical propagation activities, including seed saving and planting, taking cuttings and other techniques. This should include everyone bringing some cuttings or seeds to swap or share, as well as sharing skills.
- Join, or form, a local seed bank
- Does everyone have access to a propagating space (eg greenhouse, shadehouse, or potting shed depending on climate)? If not, is there a way to organise to share a propagation area in a local backyard or community garden?
- Organise a group purchase of bulk potting mix or the ingredients for it (hint – a large or wholesale nursery doing their own propagation will often have piles of old potting mix able to be taken away, often for free)

