

# Bishop's Castle Community Seed Bank

## Seed Saving: Tomatoes

- Most modern varieties of tomato are self pollinating, and will not cross. Although potato-leaved and currant varieties are more likely to cross due to a longer stigma in the flower.
- To avoid crossing only grow one variety with exposed stigmas. The double flowers which are sometimes formed first by many beefsteak tomatoes also often have exposed stigmas, but later single flowers will be normal.
- Allow your tomatoes to ripen fully.



### Collecting Seeds:

- Collect a few fruits that you want to save seed from and squeeze the seeds and juice into a jar.
- Ferment this mixture in a reasonably warm place for 3 days, stirring the mixture twice a day. Then add water and stir: good seeds will sink to the bottom.
- Pour off the top layer (any mould and floating seeds). Empty the good seeds into a sieve and wash them thoroughly under running water. Dry on a plate somewhere warm but not too hot, and out of direct sunlight.

## Seed Saving: Top Tips

- Only save open-pollinated varieties (not F1 Hybrids or GMOs).
- Save seed from healthy, strong mature plants
- Buildings, trees, and other barriers will limit insect flight patterns and wind pollination to a degree, but isolation cages can stop crossing.
- If on an open site such as an allotment, work with your neighbours to grow the same type of seed crop!
- [Realseeds.co.uk](http://Realseeds.co.uk) and [vitalseeds.co.uk](http://vitalseeds.co.uk) provide lots of helpful resources and training.



## Keeping Diversity Alive

Saving seed each season keeps the varieties and species alive, and allows the Seed Bank to grow and serve the community. These varieties are a part of our shared human heritage. Please keep them going. Content for this guide sourced from [Realseeds.co.uk](http://Realseeds.co.uk)

The Bishop's Castle Community Seed Bank is an initiative of Food Forward BC, the Action Group driving our Community Food Resilience Strategy, and a part of the BC Climate Action Plan. Info from [RealSeeds.co.uk](http://RealSeeds.co.uk)

