

Bishop's Castle Community Seed Bank

Seed Saving: Sweet Peppers and chillies

- Sweet peppers and chillies are both members of the same species, *Capsicum annuum*
- Pepper flowers are self pollinating, but sweet peppers and chillies will happily cross.
- Isolate your plants by around 150 feet (50 metres) from any other peppers or chillies growing nearby.
- If you want to grow several varieties for seed, make an isolation cage to cover 3 or 4 plants.



Collecting Seeds:

- To save the seed, take peppers on your isolated plants which have ripened fully to their final colour (usually yellow or red).
- Cut the peppers open carefully, and rub the seeds gently off of the 'core' onto a plate.
- Wear rubber gloves to deseed chillies, as the chilli oil sticks to your fingers and is very hard to wash off.
- Dry the seeds in a warm but not hot place until they snap rather than bending

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 and 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](https://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](https://realseeds.co.uk)

