**DESIGN A SEED PACK**

**TIME REQUIRED:** 30-60 minutes

**OVERVIEW**

This activity allows students to create a seed pack for saving and banking the seeds from their school gardens. Students will learn how to package seeds for long-term storage and future growing success.

**MATERIALS**

* Blank seed envelopes
* Dried seeds collected from the garden
* Coloured pencil crayons or markers
* Your class seed bank (a safe dry, dark and cool place to store seeds for the year).

**PREPARATION**

Assemble the dried, previously collect seeds from the garden. (Refer to the documents *How Will We Know When to Harvest Our Seeds* and *Seed Saving in School Gardens* from the Sow and Save website)

**PROCEDURE**

Depending on the number and type of seeds collected, assign or have students chose one variety of seed at a time that they wish to design a label for.

1. Label the seed packs: Students should first consider all of the information that must be included on their seed pack before they start decorating/designing their own. They should make sure that their design includes all of the information below.

* **Name**: Name of the **crop** (ex. lettuce) and **variety** if it is known(ex. Red Oak Leaf Lettuce)
* **Date:** The year the seed was collected
* **Location:** Where the seed was collected (ex. Main St. school garden)
* **Optional:**
  + The name of the seed collector
  + Any notes you wish to add about the plant (taste, colour, size, resistance to garden problems etc.)

2. Decorate the seed pack: Once all of the essential text has been added to the seed package, students can get creative and decorate their envelopes.

3. Once the seed packs are designed then the seeds can be put inside. It is much harder to draw and write on a seed pack when it is full of seeds so make sure this step is last!

4. Bank the seeds in a safe place: Seal the envelopes and place a selection of seeds for next year’s school garden planting in your classroom seed bank. Store the seed bank in a cool, dark and dry location.

Depending on the number of seeds available, once a sufficient number of seeds have been saved for use in next year’s school garden, consider having students create seed packs as gifts for the holidays. Personalized seed packs can also be used to thank any community volunteers, parents or administrators who helped students in the garden. If enough seeds are available consider launching a small fundraiser in the school with saved seeds. Students will understand the importance of their careful and artistic packaging efforts in promoting the sale of their seeds!