

# »Best way to store seeds«

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Seed is one of the most important inputs in production. Storing them well keeps them viable for a longer period of time.

When storing seeds, ensure that you give them the best optimal conditions for storage. The most important thing is to ensure that the seeds are deprived of moisture, air, warmth and light because a combination of these factors brings seeds out of dormancy and causes them to grow. The optimal temperature range for seed storage is between 0 to 10 degrees Celsius.

## Seeds' life expectancy

When seeds are exposed to air then their life span decreases hence find a container that is air tight to store the seed.

The germination rate of seeds deteriorates over time but some seeds deteriorate faster than others. Some seed are very sensitive to storage and don't last long at all e.g., chives, garlic, leek, turnip and onion. Other seeds have a short life expectancy generally 2 to 3 years when stored under optimal conditions e.g., carrots, celery, corn, fennel, spinach.

Other seeds have a life expectancy of between 4 to 5 years e.g., Bean, lettuce, pea, pepper, radish, chard.

Crops with a long life expectancy of over 5 years include Cole crops, cucumber, egg plants, Mellon's, tomatoes, pumpkins and squash.

## Seed storage tips

Have a system that works for you depending on the nature of seeds you have and the quantities you have.

Ensure that you label your seeds with as much information as possible.

Create a system for using and rotating your seeds every season i.e., use older seeds before using the new seeds.