

JOIN THE SEED COLLECTORS

Globally, plant diversity is rapidly declining, and around the globe people are saving seeds to preserve them for future generations.

Help us document what is growing here now - our climate is changing so it will likely be different in the future!

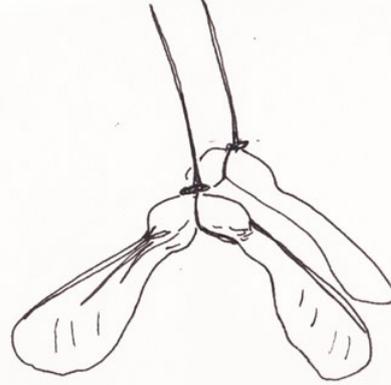
Step 1. Seed collecting

Autumn is a good time to collect seeds as most seeds are formed at the end of the growing season.

- a) Look for dry seeds, and fruits* which come away easily - this is the best sign that the plant thinks they are ready to go.
- b) Lay your seeds out on some newspaper and turn often to ensure they are completely dry before you package them. Even very small levels of moisture will prevent your seeds storing well.
- c) Package your seeds in a small paper envelope or glass jar. Label with variety, collector, location and date.

*Seed saving from fruit is a bit more complex so for now just eat any blackberries you find!





SPECIES: Sycamore
COLLECTOR: M. Orbach
LOCATION: POLLOCKSHIELDS
DATE: 2021



Step 2. Document the seeds you have found

- i. Draw them - botanical artists and scientists work together.
 - a) make a 3 minute drawing, a diagram.
What is it's basic structure?
 - b) make a more detailed drawing, still focusing on accurately mapping details
 - c) label your drawing

ii. Make a cyanotype print -

This is one of the oldest forms of photography and was used by botanists including Anna Atkins.

- a) choose the seed/ seedhead you wish to document
- b) place the seeds on top of the cyanotype paper, and for sharper focus, press flat with a sheet of perspex or clip into a picture frame.
- c) expose to the sun (or sky if it's grey!) for 7 - 30 minutes. The sunnier it is the faster it will be!
- d) wash your print under cold water for two minutes and dry flat.

Share your work!

We'd love to see what you made, and you making it!

Facebook: @TheDickInstitute @eayrshireleisure

Instagram: @east_ayrshire_leisure

Twitter: @EALeisure @Dick_Institute

#seedscapes

You can find the paper, along with instructions, online here:

<https://parallaxphotographic.coop/how-to-use-cyanotype-paper/>

Introductory video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQ438yKOEYA>

<https://cyanotype.co.uk/product/coated-cyanotype-paper>