

EAST MOUNTAIN SEED AND GARDEN CO-OP

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” **Genesis 8:22**



Moriarty, NM -Photo by [Jensine Odom](#)

Squash.

They have a reputation for being hard to save, but maybe it's not as bad as you've heard.

Let's get our hands dirty and take home some squash to plant!

We'll provide the squash, you'll just need to bring:

- Plastic or Metal Bowl
- A “tough” spoon or ice cream scoop
- A small towel (we'll be rinsing seeds!)
- Jar or zip bag and a way to label them



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UPCOMING MEETING

Sunday, March 16 @ 3pm-5pm

East Mountain Vineyard Church

1 Eunice Court, Edgewood

On the Agenda:

- Garden Planning
- Seed Saving Hands-On
- New Membership/Renewal
- Seed Distribution



Garden Planning - Lessons learned

Nicole Johnson

This will be my 5th season gardening in the East Mountains. In the spirit of perpetual hope, I am aiming for the best season yet! Here are some things I've been thinking about for my own garden planning...

- **Grow what I want to/can eat.** TOMATOES! Last year I planted WAY too many cherry tomato plants, this year, just a few. Majority will be paste and sauce tomatoes - plus a few for slicing.
- **Shade is important.** I created individual shades for each bed, this year, I'm aiming for one big shade per garden area, instead of lots of little ones.
- **Don't start too early.** Last year I started seeds indoors in February! It was a lot to maintain for a long time - without much payoff.
- **Stay on top of succession planning.** I struggle planting successive harvests. This year, I'll try using my big kitchen calendar for those reminders. Or maybe set reminders in my phone. Any suggestions?

Seed starting calendars and planting dates

[My Garden Planting Calendar](#)

NEED HELP remembering when to start your first spring sowings of vegetable, flower and herb seeds indoors and out? This tool calculates when using your final spring frost date.

[Seedtime](#)

Visualize exactly when to seed, transplant, or harvest crops in your garden all year round - based on your local area.

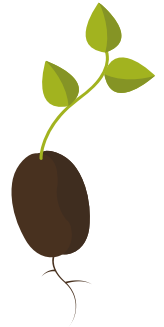


[Edgewood/Moriarty Last Frost Date is May 21!!!](#)

The Importance of Seed Saving for Next Year's Garden

The Imperfectly Happy Home

- What is seed saving?
 - Seed saving is the practice of collecting seeds from mature plants to use in future growing seasons.
- Why is it important?
 - Preserving Heirloom Varieties ~ Can help gardeners preserve unique traits of plants.
 - Cost Effective Gardening ~ Reduce the need to buy new seeds each year.
 - Adapting to Local Conditions~ Over time, saved seeds can produce hardier plants.
 - Promotes Biodiversity ~ Helps maintain genetic diversity in the garden.
 - Sustainability and Self-Reliance ~ Empowers gardeners to control food supply.
- How to save seeds from your garden?
 - Choose the right plants ~ Choose open pollinated or heirloom
 - Allow seeds to mature ~ Seeds are usually ready to harvest when the fruit or pod is fully mature.
 - Harvest and clean seeds ~ Some seeds need to be washed/dried. Do some research.
 - Store seeds properly ~ Store seeds in a cool, dark place in airtight containers. Label with name/year!
- Common plants for seed saving
 - Tomatoes ~ Fermentation is required! ([Youtube video](#))
 - Beans and Peas ~ Let them dry until they rattle, then shell them.
 - Peppers ~ Remove from fully ripened plants, then dry out thoroughly.
 - Lettuce ~ Let the plant flower (go to seed) and collect the seeds once the flowers have dried.
 - Cucumbers and Squash ~ Harvest from fully mature fruits, clean and dry before storing.



Read the full article here: [The Importance of Seed Saving for Next Year's Garden](#)



Future Workshops

You might remember that at a recent meeting we asked for members to vote for their favorite workshop ideas, and provide other suggestions if they had them. Here are the topics that had the most interest expressed:

- Hoop house/Green house
- Solar
- Seed Saving
- Food Preservation
- Composting
- What Grows Well

The co-op will make every effort to include these in the workshops this year! Thank you for the feedback!

Other great ideas? Send us an email!

eastmountainseed@gmail.com

DATES AND REMINDERS

Yearly fees have been reduced to \$20 per member!!

If you already paid for 2025, we'll reimburse you at the next meeting.

REMINDERS

3/16/2025 - Workshop @ 3pm

3/17/2025 - St. Patrick's Day

3/20/2025 - Spring Equinox

4/15/2025 - Tax Day 2025

4/20/2025 - Easter Sunday

4/25/2025 - Arbor Day 2025

5/18/2025 - Tentative Workshop Date

[CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE!](#)