

Don't Throw Out Those Seed Catalogs!

FOUR SPLENDID VEGETABLES

Improved California Peach Tomato

A decided novelty in Vegetables. Our Improved Peach Tomatoes are two and two and one-half inches in diameter, and in color are a deep rose and golden amber banded in an indescribable manner, all covered with delicate blossoms, like the blossom or furze of a fine peach. For eating out of the hand as fruit it is without a rival, the very solid, rich, meaty flesh being unequalled in delicacy of flavor, and melting in the mouth like grapes. Pkt. 10c, 2 pkts. 20c.

MAY's Northwest Premier Pea

The most valuable extra early Pea for either private or market use. Ripens a week earlier than First and Best or any other early sort. Grows to a height of from 24 to 30 inches, and is an immense cropper. The pods are of good size, and the peas are of the finest flavor. Pkt. 10c, 25, 50c, 75c, postpaid. By express or freight, peck \$2.00, bushel \$4.00-5.00.

Early Windsor Corn

Early Windsor is the earliest, finest flavored, and most productive early sweet corn that has ever been produced. It is remarkable for its fine appearance so early in the season, and, while the ears are not quite as large as the late sorts, they are always well filled, and the kernel is of the best quality. Pkt. 10c, 25, 50c, 75c, postpaid. By express or freight, peck \$2.00, bushel \$4.00-5.00.

Dirigo Beet

An Early blood-red Beet of English origin. The roots are of the most perfect shape, and the quality unsurpassed. For private use we consider it one of the very best varieties ever offered, while for gardeners it is certain to become a favorite on account of its earliness and handsome appearance. Pkt. 10c, 25, 50c, 75c, 1 lb. \$1.00, postpaid.

ONE PACKET EACH OF THE ABOVE 35c POSTPAID

L.L. MAY & Co
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA.

The seed catalogs are arriving! It's like an early Christmas this time of year when I visit the mailbox and find a new catalog waiting for me. I am signed up to receive a bundle of them from various retailers. Even when I have plenty of seeds on hand for the next season, I love to flip through the brightly colored pages and read about different kinds of veggies, herbs, and flowers. When I'm done, though, I don't

ever toss them in the recycling bin. I keep seed catalogs on hand for a few years, because I believe they are a fantastic resource and reference material.

Why I Keep Back Catalogs

I have a magazine folio filled with old seed catalogs. I usually keep them for around four years or so, until the folio gets full and it's time to purge. What's the point of keeping these? Here are a few reasons why.

- **Resource material** – Most seed catalogs aren't just designed to sell a product. They're painstakingly created – at least my favorite ones are – and contains tons of extra information that's incredibly valuable. Seed starting charts, growing guides, gardening tips, and more.
- **Seed info** – Sometimes, I need to go back and find information about a particular variety I planted that I no longer have the seed packet for. Is your seed packet gone or damaged and you can't read the planting info? Check the seed catalog!
- **Notebook** – Scrawl notes and stick post-its in the catalogs you receive. Instead of buying a new notebook, use seed catalogs to write down your observations, circle the plants you want to grow for the next year or year after.
- **Reading material** – Sometimes, when I'm bored without my garden in the winter, I'll flip through my collection of seed catalogs.
- **Inspiration** – When I lack garden mojo, I'll check out my collection of catalogs to get inspired again.

Of course, seed catalogs are useful if you're planning to order some seeds for next year. Nothing beats flipping through the pages and excitedly making plans and dreaming big. Check out your favorite seed retailer's website to sign up for their seed catalog. Most companies will mail them to you for free.

Even if you don't plan to order anything this year, they're really great to have on hand.

Some seed retailers also create separate gardening guides that include product listings but are packed with even more growing information for gardeners. Often they're also available for free or for a nominal fee.