

Seed Glossary

Certified Organic

Seeds harvested from plants that are grown without synthetic fertilizer and pesticides

Heirloom

An old variety that owes its present availability to the seed-saving efforts of amateurs.

Hybrid

The offspring of a cross between two or more varieties, usually of the same species

Open-pollinated

A non-hybrid variety; one that can reproduce itself in kind

Pelleting

Improves the shape, size, and uniformity of raw seeds for more accurate sowing

Resistance

Having a certain amount of immunity to disease-causing pathogens such as fungi, bacteria or viruses

Tolerance

Varieties perform relatively well when exposed to environmental stresses such as cold or hot weather, or drought

Treated

Seeds coated with fungicides and/or insecticides to protect from rotting or insect damage before germination

Untreated

Seeds that have no chemical treatments

Variety

A genetically similar population of plants, distinct in one or more traits from other populations