Collecting seeds is as easy as a walk through your garden! Leave some seed heads on your plants after they finish flowering. Allow them to dry thoroughly and you are ready to get started. You will need: garden shears, a paper bag, a sharpie and paper envelopes.

Cover a dry seed head with a paper bag while the flower stalk is still attached to the plant. Cut the stalk and turn it upside down so that any loose seeds fall into the bag. Dry seeds can fall off quickly once disturbed so the paper bag is essential. Write the name of the plant on the bag to eliminate confusion if you are collecting seed from several different plants.

Bring the bags into an area sheltered from wind. Even a gentle wind gust could instantly blow your seeds away.

Cover a flat surface with newspaper and lay a large piece of white paper on top.

Take care to be over the white paper, gently shake the bag and then remove the flower stalk. Now turn the bag over and gently shake out the seeds that fell into the bag.

Be sure you remove all of the seeds.

Pick out any debris or bugs.

Write the plant name (botanical and common) and date collected on the envelope.

Funnel the seeds from the paper into the envelope.

Put the labeled envelopes into a small, covered box. Add a few packets of dried silica gel, which will help to keep them dry.

Place the box in a cool place until you are ready to sow them. (The bottom shelf of the refrigerator is an ideal storage spot.)