

Best seed catalogs

## Adventure books

It's the beginning of winter and mailboxes are already being filled with seed catalogs! It seems like they come earlier and earlier every year.

That's fine with me. I love seed catalogs. When I was a kid, my friends read *comic books*. Not me, I read *seed catalogs*.

Seed catalogs are full of possibilities! The weather may be icy and frigid outside, but my heart warms up while reading these pages full of colorful veggies and flowers.

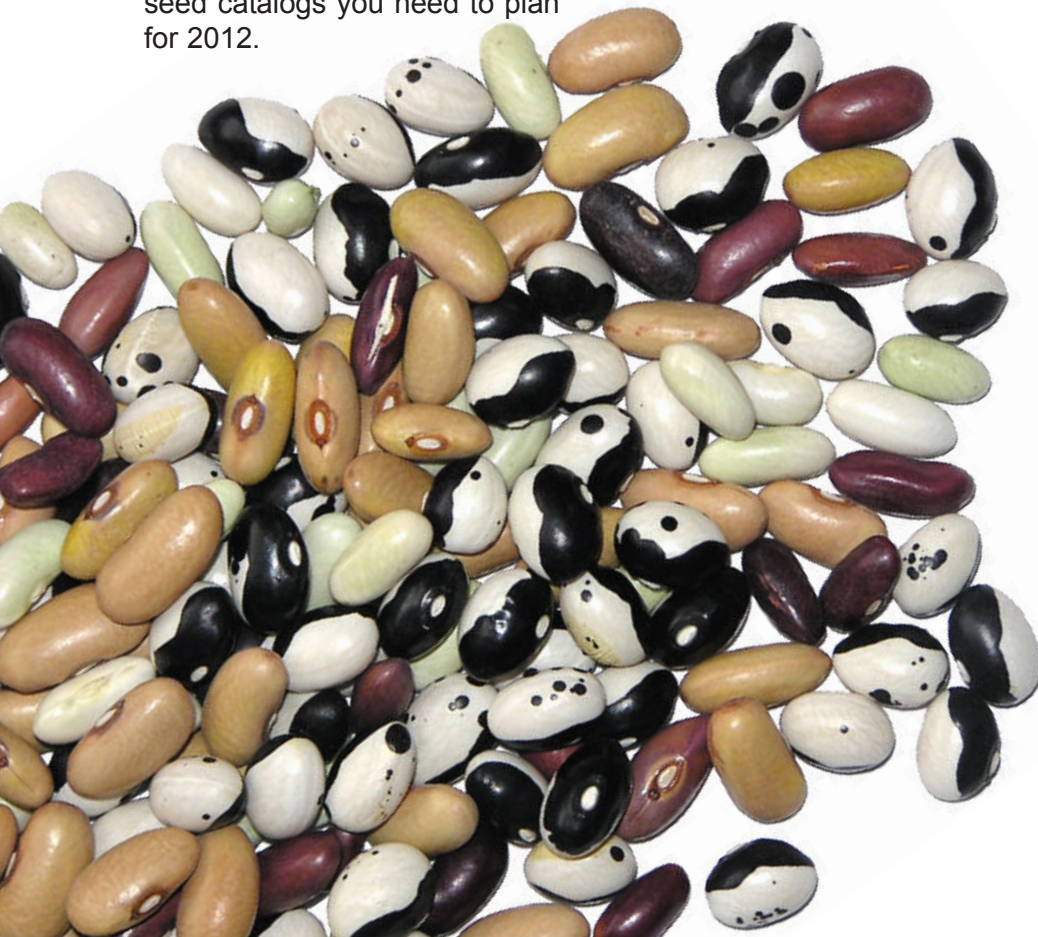
Now is the time to order your seed catalogs for 2012. Almost all seed catalogs are free and can be ordered online. You can spend 30 minutes on-line and get all the seed catalogs you need to plan for 2012.

Please get the seed catalog from Johnny's Selected Seeds—you won't be disappointed. Johnny's has an aggressive breeding program that has developed many of the finest varieties for the north. They also offer many organic and heirloom varieties. Request their free catalog by going to their web site at <[www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com)> or calling them at 1-877-564-6697. Their customer service is outstanding. You can phone in your seed order in the morning and it will be shipped out that afternoon. As a bonus, their catalog is full of good gardening advice. I keep their catalog at my side all spring and summer.

You will enjoy the catalog of Jung Seed Company since it's full of varieties that flourish in the north. Jung has purchased Totally Tomatoes (offering a huge selection of tomato and pepper varieties), Shumway Seeds (full of heirlooms), and the Vermont Bean Seed Company (full of—you guessed it—beans!). Request the Jung seed catalog at their web site <[www.jungseed.com](http://www.jungseed.com)> or call them at 1-800-297-3123. Don't be surprised if you receive all four catalogs, which are all wonderful!

Burpee Seed Company, the nation's largest vegetable seed company, has a colorful catalog. They have a good selection of seeds and their seed quality is excellent. Request a seed catalog at <[burpee.com](http://burpee.com)> or call them at 1-800-333-5808.

If you have a big garden, you need a company that offers seed in large quantities at economical prices. You may wish to try Mountain Valley Seeds. You will like



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their seed quality and prices. Request their catalog at <mvseeds.com> or 801-486-0480.

HPS (Horticultural Products and Services) is Jung's seed company for commercial growers. Go to <hpsseed.com> or 1-800-322-7288 to get your catalog.

I'm also a big fan of Harris Seeds. They offer some of the best varieties and their prices are very competitive. Contact them at <harriseseeds.com> or 1-800-544-7938.

Generally, I'm not a big fan of heirloom vegetables. There are good reasons why heirlooms became heirlooms—it's called progress and science. We moved on as a society and developed better varieties.

Nonetheless, some heirloom varieties offer special flavors and other fascinating qualities. If you like heirlooms, you absolutely need to get the catalog of Seed Savers Exchange (SSE). It's the largest source of heirloom varieties available. Become a member of SSE and you can have access to over 13,000 varieties! Contact them at <seedsavers.org> or 563-382-5990. Although heirloom varieties may not perform as reliably as a hybrid, the quality of the SSE seed (germination and seedling vigor) is generally outstanding.

You'll enjoy the colorful photos in the catalog of Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, too. They can be reached at <rareseeds.com>; 417-924-8917.

Fedco Seeds has an impressive selection of varieties and their prices are attractive. The catalog is full of unique drawings and full of interesting stories on the varieties they offer. Reach them at <fedcoseeds.com> or 207-873-7333

Pinetree Garden Seeds is known to offer smaller seed packets at bargain prices. Many gardeners in our state enthusiastically recommend this company. Contact them at <superseeds.com> or 207-926-3400.

Many seed companies offer Asian vegetables. Kitazawa Seed Company specializes in these vegetables and offers an impressive collection. Order their catalog at <kitazawaseed.com> or 510-595-1188.

Other seed companies you can order free catalogs from include:

- Gurney's Seed; <gurneys.com>; 513-354-1492.
- Nichols Garden Nursery; <nicholsgardennursery.com>; 1-800-422-3985
- The Cook's Garden; <cooks garden.com>; 1-800-457-9703.
- Territorial Seed; <territorialseed.com>; 1-800-626-0866.

What are you waiting for? Get online and get your catalogs! It is never too early to begin planning your gardening adventures of 2012. 