



***“Time tries the truth in everything”***

**Welcome to [vegetableseeds.net.au](http://vegetableseeds.net.au)  
February 2015 Newsletter**

In this newsletter we look at the results of our germination tests carried out in late January 2015 on our entire seed range, this is a tiny but important bit of the vast subject of Botany. These tests prove to us that what we are selling to you will germinate strongly when you sow them. We could put the results next to each variety in our catalogue at the beginning of each year or on each packet but we thought that we would present the information to you this year in this newsletter.



All of our seeds are in climatically controlled storage. We specialise in high value but small volumes of seed. These results suggest that our seeds will germinate strongly throughout 2015.

A more practical test is carried out by us with our monthly seed sowing plan where we give seed of the varieties we want grown for seedlings to St Georges School, (Northern Support School) at the Ravenswood Community Garden hot house. if there is any poor germination of the seeds the teachers, teacher aides, and students would be the first to tell us, and we would not have any seedlings to sell to our customers at Inspirations Garden Centre.

## **The Germination Test**

At the end of January 2015 the following seeds were placed on moist tissue paper in sterilised plastic containers sealed with plastic lids placed on a heat mat set at between 22 and 24C. The seeds were observed after the first 36hrs for development of the root.

Many seeds that germinated at 36hrs and 62hrs grew a stem and first leaves by 102hrs this indicates very strong seed. Seed germinating after 120hrs does not indicate poor seed with the varieties tested, asparagus and onions for example can take a long time to geminate.

### **36 hours (90% +)**

Broccollette, Broccoli Marathon, Broccoli F1, Brussel sprouts F1, Cabbage Red, Cabbage sweet green, Cabbage savoy Ace, Cauliflower F1, Chicory, Couve cabbage, Cucumber Burpless, Cucumber mini, Chinese greens Green elk, mibuna, mizuna, Pakchoi, Tatsoi, Chinese cabbage small, Chinese Cabbage large, Kale Borecole, Kale dwarf curly, Kale Red Curly, Kale Toscano, Kholrabi purple, Lettuce cos, Lettuce green mignonette, Lettuce Iceberg, Lettuce Mix, Lettuce red cross, Lettuce Sierra, Lettuce winter density, Melon Passport, Radish Black Spanish, Radish Cheriette, Radish Fireball, Radish red meat, Radish shukyo semi long, Spring onion, Swede Laurentian, Swede Tas Butter, sweet Corn F1, Sweet corn bi-colour, Turnip white lady, Zucchini green F1.



### **48 hours (90% +)**

Amaranthus grains Cerise, Broccoli Purple sprouting, Orange Giant, Salt springs, Sioux, Bean Jade, Bean Royal Burgundy, all the rarer beans except Tasmanian green bean, Cabbage Spring Hero, Chinese greens Black cabbage, Chinese greens red cabbage, green manure black oats, English Spinach, green manure Lupins, green manure pearl millet, Kale Moretons line, Lettuce Green Mignonette, Millet grains Echinocloa, Millet grains Foxtail, Millet grains sari, Pea Hadspen, Pea Willow, Pumpkin Atlantic giant, Pumpkin Butternut, Pumpkin sweet grey, Swede Gillfeather, Zucchini early, Zucchini yellow,

### **72 hours (90% +)**

Carrot sugar snax, cabbage savoy king, Cauliflower graffiti, chervil, Chives, corn Aztec black, corn seneca, corn temperate highland, Corn painted mountain, fennel, Lettuce green mignonette, Lettuce iceberg, Mangold, Marrow F1, melon sweet heart, Onion red autumn sown, Pea Bounty, Pea meteor, bright lights, Pumpkin Buttercup, Pumpkin small sugar, swiss chard bright lights, Squash sunburst, water melon yellow doll, Water melon sugar baby,

### **120 hours (90% +)**

Bean Blue Lake (climbing), Bean Pioneer, Bean Purple King (climbing), Bean slenderwax, Broad bean purple flowered, Broad bean coles dwarf, broad bean early longpod, Broad bean paramo, Broad bean red epicure, Broad bean witkiem, Carrot royal chantenay, carrot flake, Carrot purple haze, carrot merida, carrot Mokum, Carrot Kuroda, Eggplant millionaire, Eggplant purple, Leek F1, Pea Green feast, Pea Mammoth melting, Pea Massy, Pea Melbourne market, Pea Oregon Giant, Pea sugarbon, Pea Telephone (climbing) Pumpkin Orange cuties, Silverbeet fordhook, Squash delicate, Giant sunflower.

### **126 hours (90%)**

Asparagus, Capsicums (all), Chillis (all), Onion red, spring sown, Majestic Red carrot, Parsley Italian, Parsley Moss curled,

Germination tests completed for January 2015.

Parsnip seed does not respond well to the above germination test so was sown in a 150mm container filled with moist seed raising mix at 22 degrees C on a seed raising bench, the seeds germinated after two and a half weeks.

I carry out these tests four times a year just to be absolutely sure each variety is still strong seed. If you invest your money you expect a good return. Please store all seeds you purchase in a cool place at 15 °C or less with low humidity in a dry place. A sealed glass jar containing silica crystals for moisture absorption in a domestic fridge is OK.

Quarantine departments all over the world are increasing their Biosecurity presence. This means that many varieties of vegetable seeds cannot be as easily accessed as they were a few years ago from different countries without inspection and sometimes seed testing costs at the port of arrival.

Seed may even have to be sent to a laboratory for testing for a specific disease, for example this year Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus (CGMMV) is being tested for in all the Cucurbitaceae family at a high cost to the importer.

The reason for this is an increased awareness and scientific knowledge of certain pests and diseases (P and D) found on crops in farming regions around the world. Please check the varieties that you can import into your state before you order on line because the seeds may be inspected by quarantine at the border.

These regulations may be seen as a nuisance by me and many of you home gardeners but when we look at the importance of world agricultural production we can see that newly introduced P and D could thrive in many new regions and could cause many problems to food production in those regions.



Quarantine departments can't stop the actual P and D from occurring over time in new regions, but they can and do stop us from importing seeds with what are perceived as potential P and D risks.

# Seeds of Change

We have done all the work for you, offering P and D free seed and having been through all the hoops of having the correct paperwork and tests carried out, trust me these hoops are many, but because of this you will be able to receive our seeds in most states of Australia without any problems. However if you are in another country things may be different.



Search on line for your state or country's quarantine department to see what seeds you are allowed to bring in before you order them.

You may need the Latin names on the seed packets as a condition to send seeds to your state or country. Some post-harvest seed may be prohibited entry from the country you are ordering from, but if it doesn't some seed may need additional paperwork such as plant health certificates from the country of origin.

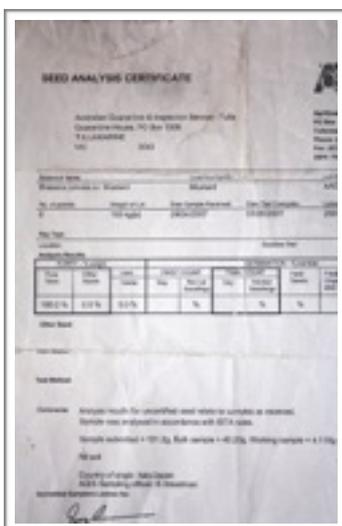
Our seeds are all healthy and disease free, we pay the costs for having these quality seeds. We work with qualified professional plant breeders, for them this is not a hobby it is a lively hood.

This year, regrettably we cannot send seeds to WA due to quarantine restrictions.

Before we send seeds to the USA please check with your quarantine regulations first and if we can send them we will have to charge for postage this year.

Here are some of the many forms we have to have to be able to access quality seeds into Tasmania.

## The Price of Good Seeds



Seeds analysis certificate



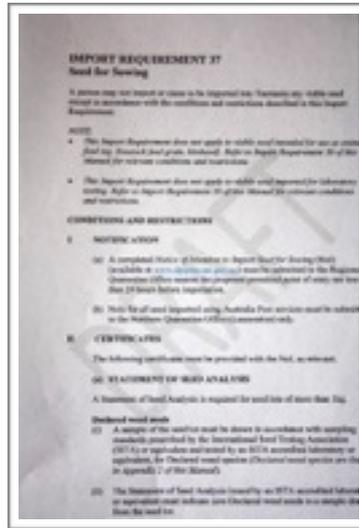
Notice of intention to import grain/seed



Register of seed importers



Victorian plant health certificate



Import requirement

## Do Good Always, Harm No-one

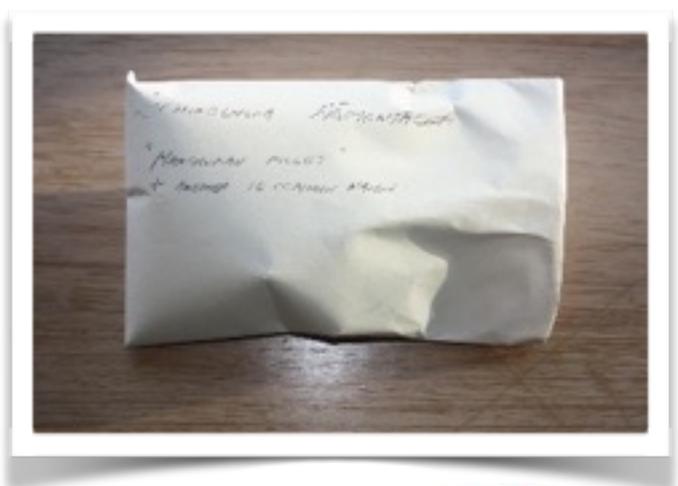


I believe in freedom of choice so I also believe in the free movement of seeds and easy access to seeds but I also know the importance of agriculture, including grow your own, for future generations.

If, like us, you do grow your own crops from your own saved seeds try to make sure that they are free from serious P and D before re sowing or giving to friends if the plants grown from the seeds show symptoms of ill health something is wrong, you may have a serious plant

infection and your friends will not thank you for introducing a plant disease they never had before. The temptation to smuggle in seeds from other countries, especially with unknown P and D status is irresponsible. Professional plant breeders, researchers and seed collectors know about P and D status and are responsible about which seeds they select for movement from one country to another.

Next month we will have a fresh look at the huge subject of pests and diseases of vegetable crops, what you should look for, how to avoid them, soil health, and what action to take if you have a pest or disease on a crop.



Happy gardening wherever you may be.

