

# First Missouri seed library now open for business

If you're planning on making a stop at the Hermann Library this week, to return books or pick up requests, don't leave without stopping to check out its newest addition - the Seed Library.

The library is currently offering more than 75 varieties of heirloom, organic seed to patrons planning their gardens. "Many of the seeds we offer come to us from Seed Savers Heritage Farm, a special not-for-profit program sponsored by Seed Savers Exchange," said Sheri Hausman, Hermann Branch manager for Scenic Regional Library. "Others have come to us from area gardeners who can certify their seeds varieties are healthy, keeping genetic diversity and age-old gardening heritage alive."

The Seed Library works very simply; patrons come into the library, located at 601 Market Street, check out seeds, grow their crop and at the end of the growing season, harvest and return seed for the coming year.

"There will be lots of help along the way" said Hausman "We're already planning a series of gardening presentations to share what we learn with emphasis on different aspects of the growing season. At the moment

we're simply checking out seed. We have everything from Long Island Cheese Squash, introduced in 1807 and named for its resemblance to a wheel of cheese, to Ponderosa Red Tomatoes and Velvet Queen Sunflowers. We hope this becomes self-perpetuating."

This latest function of the Library serves a number of purposes. By preserving and sharing seed donations, our food, our health and community continue to grow.

For information call Brittany or Sheri at 573-486-2024 or come into the Hermann Library.