

HEIRLOOM SEED CATALOG

DESCRIPTION

The Kearsarge Seed Savers Group is a small group of farmers and gardeners in rural New Hampshire with an interest in preserving open pollinated seeds that are either rare or of local interest. The group has an immense knowledge in various farming techniques, rare and locally significant plant species, and seed saving practices but has struggled with organization and communication issues. Prior to this project, the entire seed database was handwritten and poorly updated. Seeds were at risk of losing their viability due to long storage periods due to ineffective inventory methods. Although several members were internet savvy, most had little skills in cataloging and database management.



METHODOLOGY

Each species of the collection was cataloged and assigned a number. Once a database was established then a website will allow users to view the current inventory and make additions and subtractions to the catalog as seeds are shared

OUTCOMES



Better productivity of each members garden

Easier access to hard to find seeds

Darwinian enhancement to the local seed population by altitude within a given zip code

IMPACT

Seed availability is more easily visible in the database's current format. Members now have access to view the existing seed bank and can more readily plan the year's gardens or determine seeds that should be added to the bank.

The improved organization and communication within the group will allow it to expand within the community and perhaps begin sharing seeds with other seed saving groups.