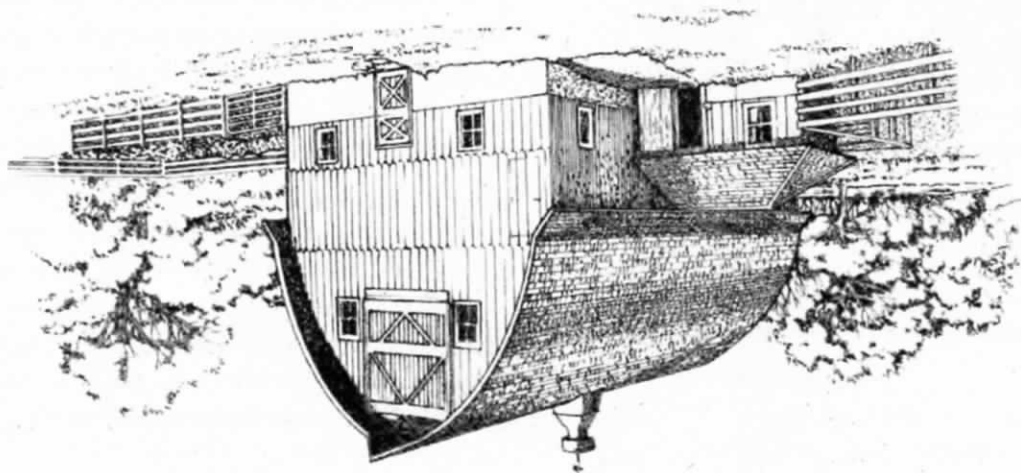


Heritage Farm Updates



L-to-D Project moves 70 varieties onto the Exchange

Taking care of a seed bank with 20,000-plus varieties comes with an array of curatorial projects that pose frustrating issues and exciting solutions for preserving the seeds. The seed bank team at Heritage Farm is especially excited about one current curatorial effort, the "L to D Project." This project offers a relatively easy way to make more varieties available on the Exchange that Seed Savers Exchange previously didn't have enough inventory to distribute.

How does it work? We know we have distributable inventory of a variety if we have a "D" or "Distribution" packet of it. This D packet contains the seed we pull when someone requests it through the Exchange. To get D packets, we usually have to grow a variety for seed increase on Heritage Farm. In a typical year, we'll grow several hundred varieties for this purpose. However, this is very time-, space-, and labor-intensive work, and there are more varieties that need to be grown than we're able to each year. To help refine this list of varieties to grow and to create more D packets, we identified an untapped source of distributable seeds in the seed bank: "L" or "Legacy" packets. These packets were made during a time when the seed bank had a different structure and thus no longer have a place in the life cycle of a seed stewarded in the SSE seed bank.

To move these L packets back into the current seed bank cycle, we've identified a list of varieties that have L packets, but no D packets. We then perform germination tests on the seeds in these L packets. If the seeds have a good germination rate, we convert the L packet into a D packet. This variety now has distributable inventory for the

Exchange and is no longer considered a priority variety

needing to be grown on Heritage Farm. So far, we have converted approximately 70 L packets into D packets. This process may sound simple, but ensuring that the D packets we're creating from L packets have quality seed up to our standards for distribution is actually quite detailed work. Thank you to Natalie Aird, our amazing seed bank inventory coordinator, for getting this project going and helping to troubleshoot all of the hiccups that come up along the way! Interested in growing some of these varieties? Many do not have a description and would be candidates for the Collection Documentation Project. See more on page xiii.

Jerusalem artichokes relocated at Heritage Farm

The Jerusalem artichokes at Heritage Farm have been in need of a new area to grow. This past fall, the preservation team dug them up in advance of moving them next spring. They will overwinter in the root cellar until the spring of 2025, when SSE staff will plant and re-establish them in their new home adjacent to an allium patch on the east end of the Goldman Orchard. Because of this move, the Jerusalem artichokes will not be available through the Exchange in 2025. Keep an eye out for them to be back in the Exchange in 2026!

Limited number of alliums offered from Heritage Farm

Last year, the preservation team worked hard to relocate all of the vegetative alliums to the east end of the Goldman Orchard. This new location provides fresh soil, a sunnier location, and reduced weed pressure; it also allows for more space between varieties to ensure they don't encroach upon