

Presenters



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South Carolina Libraries and Food Access

Seeds and Gardens and Refrigerators, oh my!

A large, dark blue, diagonal shape that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, covering the lower half of the slide.

SC Read Eat Grow statewide initiative

- Statewide food literacy initiative begun in 2018 by the South Carolina State Library
- Many libraries were already participating in this programming

Where to start?

- Don't assume!
- Ask your community what they need most, through an informal survey, a needs assessment, and through talking to other community organizations
- Reach out and network!

Contact me with any questions:

Rebecca Antill

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FREE AND FRESH FRIDGE



Devon Andrews, Associate Director, Community Engagement



Photo: Canva

FREE AND FRESH FRIDGE

- Choosing the space
- About the region
- About the library branch



Photo by Charleston County Public Library

FUNDING AND FILLING THE FRIDGE

- Power of partnership
- Mix of purchased and donated produce
- Expanding the project
- Community garden



QUESTIONS?

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Photos by Charleston County Public Library



Saluda County, South Carolina

- *Ranked 39th in size (out of 46)
- *Ranked 40th in population size, 20,500 (out of 46)
- *Average per capita income: \$22,814
- *Education: (2) Elementary Schools, (1) Middle School, (1) High School, (1) Technical College
- *Economy: Livestock Farming, Tree Farming
- *Library located in Historic Town Jail with 1,750 sqft.
- *Other: (1) Grocery Store
 - (1) Dollar General
 - (1) Park
 - (0) Activity Venues- Community must travel to neighboring counties for most necessities and activities

(statistics from SCcounties.org)

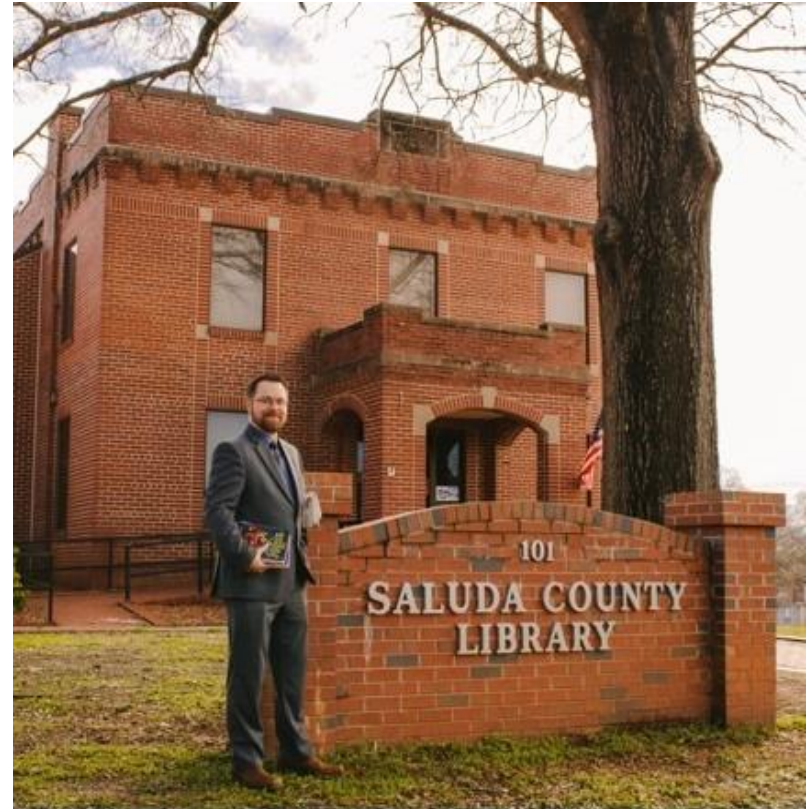


Photo by Saluda County Library System

Seed Library: Starting from Scratch

Goal: Define the reason you want to have a seed library.

Example: Increase access to crops and educate the public, while also protecting heritage varieties.

Location: Decide on how you will display/store your seeds for the public to access.

Example: Card Catalogs, Filing Cabinets, etc.



Seed Library: Starting from Scratch

Materials: Seeds can be donated from individuals, local business, non-profit organizations, or simply purchased from a Big-box Retailer (Ex. Walmart, Lowes, Home Depot, Dollar General)

Education: Provide information on how to properly grow plants in your area.

Example: Clemson Extension

(<https://www.clemson.edu/public/seed/vegetable.html>)

*local University or local Government Soil and Water District can provide most information.

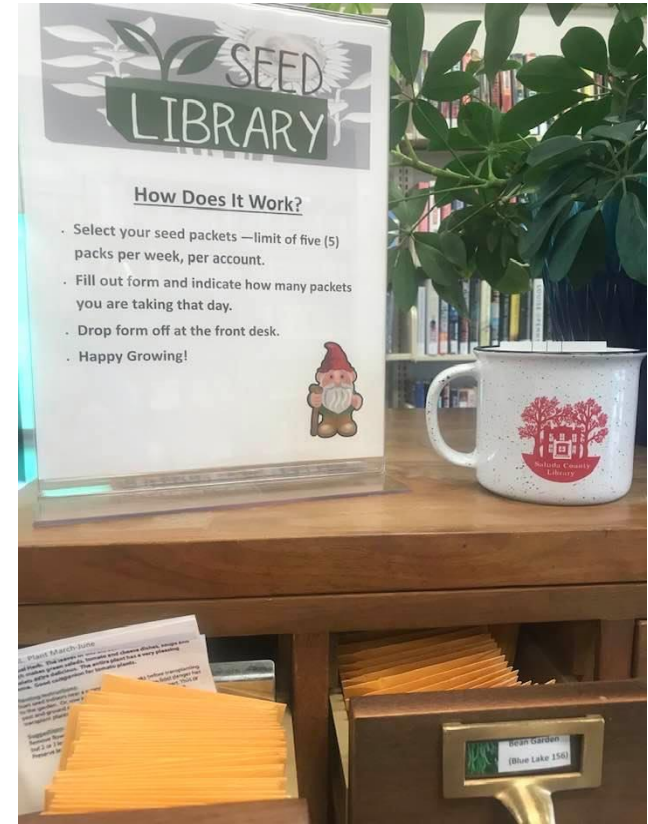


Photo by Saluda County Library System



Photo by Saluda County Library System

Seed Library: **Starting from Scratch**

Policies: Decide the rules for your seed library.

Example: Limit five seed packs per week per Library Card holder.

Some questions to ponder:

How many seed packs can be checked/taken out per person (per day/week)?

Are you going to Police the seed library, if so, how?

Are you going to track any data? (i.e. number of seed packs, types of seeds, number of users, etc.)

Promotion: Get the word out! Always remember to take pictures and promote.



Photo by Fairfield County Library



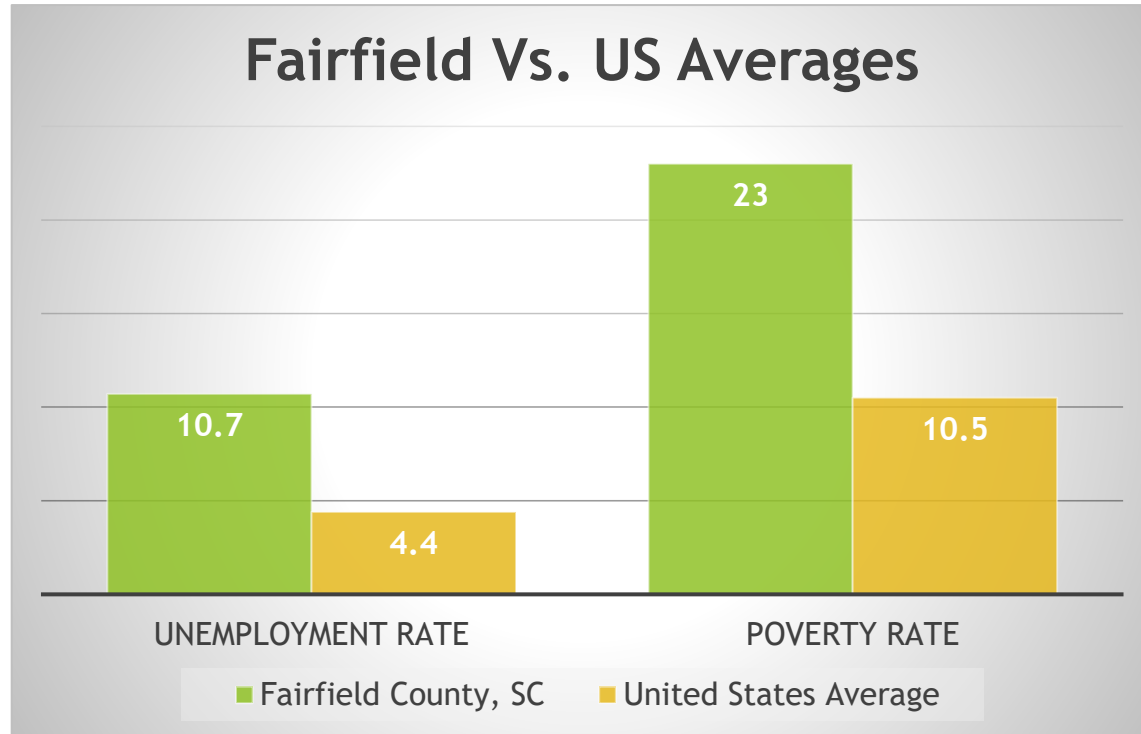
Fairfield County, South Carolina

Demographics

- ▶ Population: 22,000
- ▶ Average Salary: \$36,000
- ▶ 56% of residents are Black or African American

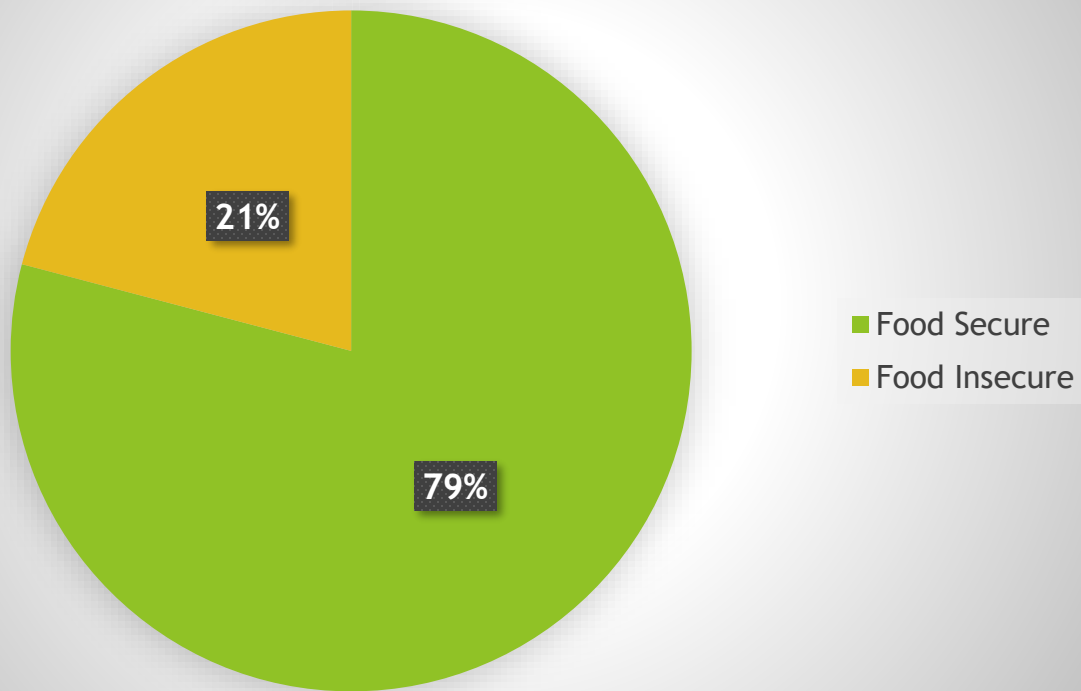


Economics of Fairfield County

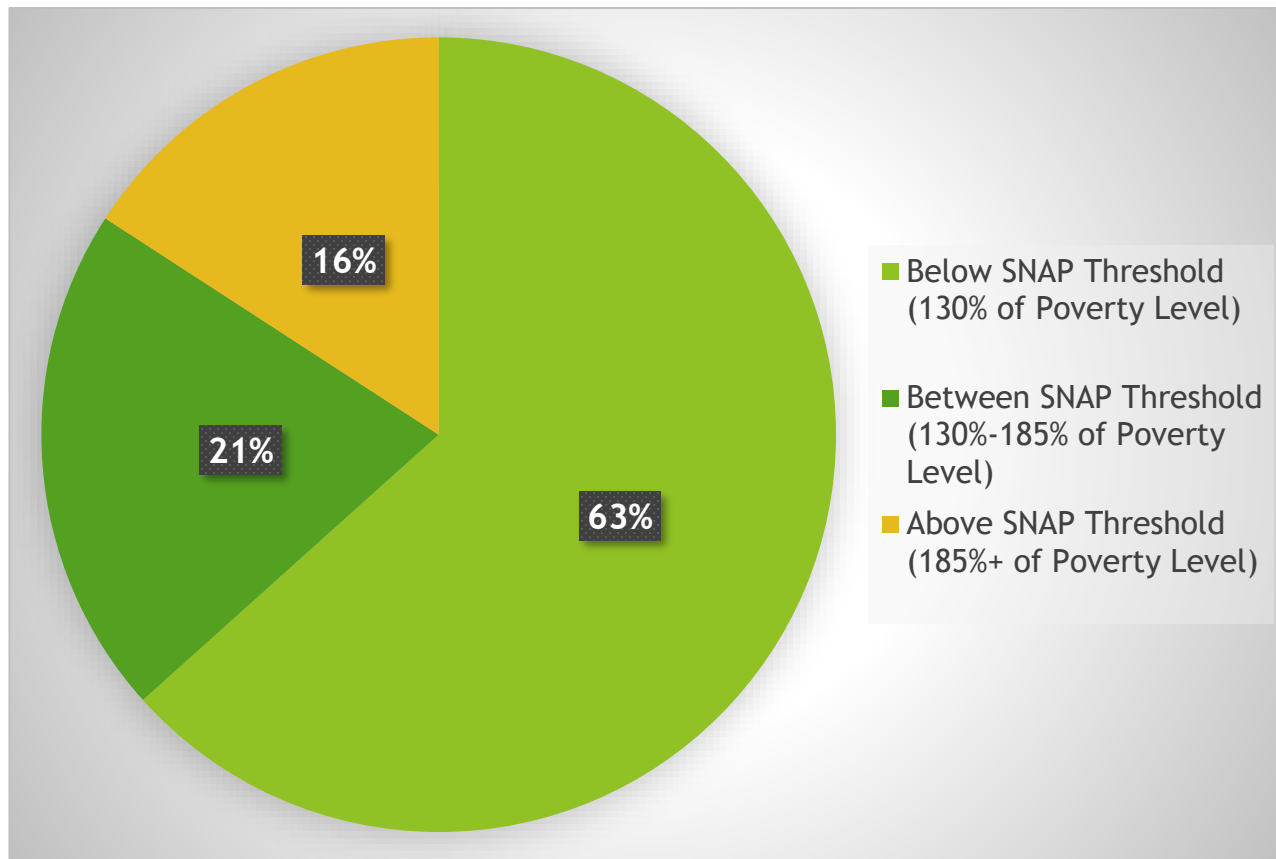


Data taken from 2019 census

Food Security in Fairfield County



Data taken from Feeding America



Data taken from Feeding America

FCL Seed Library

- ▶ Opened July 2019
- ▶ Repurposed Card Catalogue
- ▶ Initially started with 41 different types of seeds

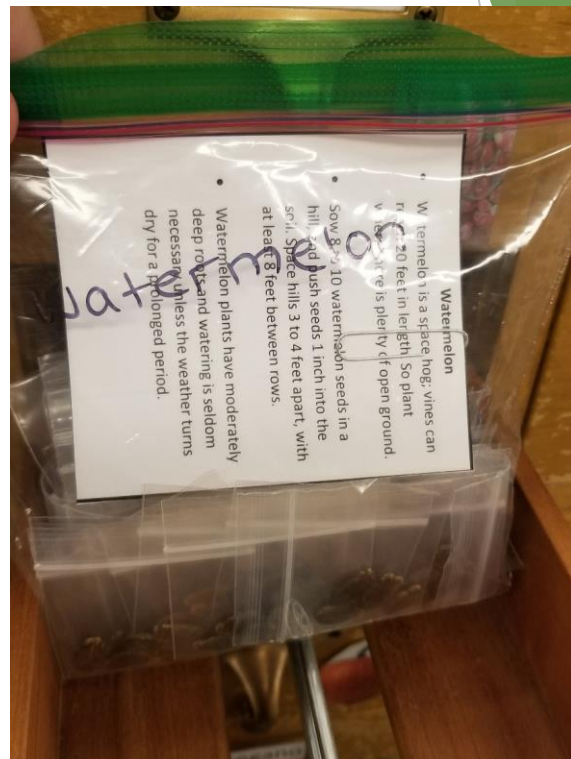


Photo by Fairfield County Library

How we got started

- ▶ SNAP-Ed
- ▶ Clemson Extension
- ▶ Local Garden Clubs





Questions to Ask Yourself

- ▶ Are there government programs that assist with these issues?

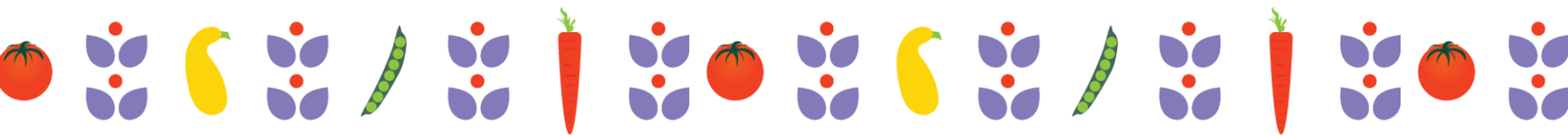
Snap-Ed, Global Food Security Program, etc.

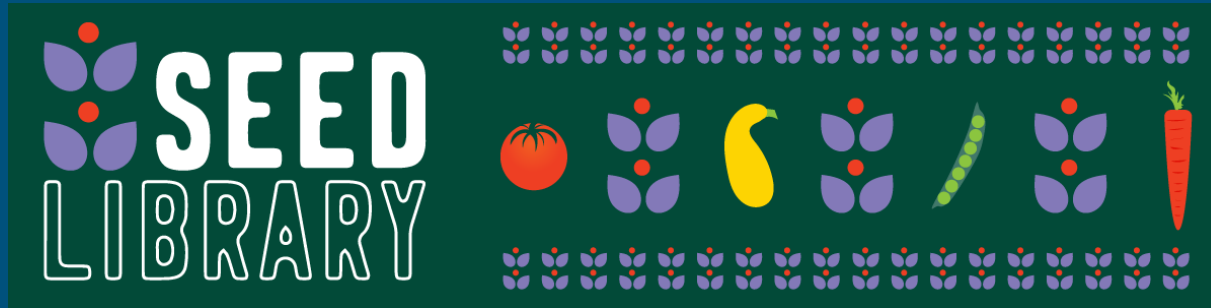
- ▶ Are there schools or universities that have Agricultural programs?

Clemson is one, but there are many!

- ▶ Are there resources in your community?

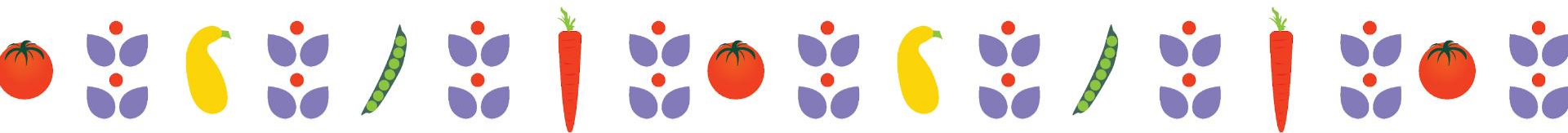
Gardening Clubs, Community Gardens, 1 Farmer who you are on good terms with.





Greenville County Library System
Greenville, South Carolina

www.greenvillelibrary.org/seed-library



Planting the Seeds...

- Getting it off the ground
 - Partnerships
 - Incorporate volunteers
 - Dedicated space and distribution channels
 - Print and promotional materials
 - Drawer labels
 - Growing Guides - unique to your climate and growing seasons
 - Individualized seed packets
 - Plan a kickoff event (timed with growing season)

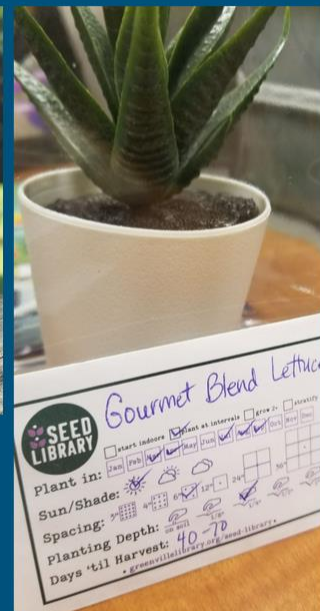
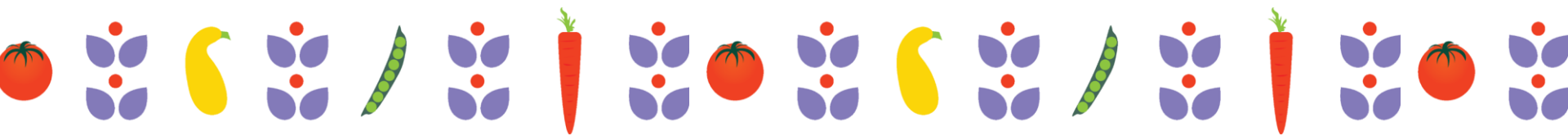


Photo by Greenville County Library System





Digging Deeper...

- Repurposed Card Catalog with 60 drawers
- Seed packets
 - Handwritten per each variety of donated seeds
 - Logo and branding
- Information provided to library patron
 - Name of variety of seed type
 - Check box for where to start
 - Time(s) of year to plant
 - Sun/Shade
 - Spacing
 - Planting Depth
 - Days until harvest



SEED LIBRARY *Gourmet Blend Lettuce*

☐ start indoors
 ☒ plant at intervals
 ☐ grow 2+
 ☐ stratify

Plant in: Jan Feb ☒ Mar ☒ Apr ☒ May Jun ☒ Jul ☒ Aug ☐ Sep ☐ Oct Nov Dec

Sun/Shade: ☒ Sun ☒ Part ☐ Shade

Spacing: 2" ☐ 4" ☐ 6" ☒ 12" ☐ 24" ☐ 36"

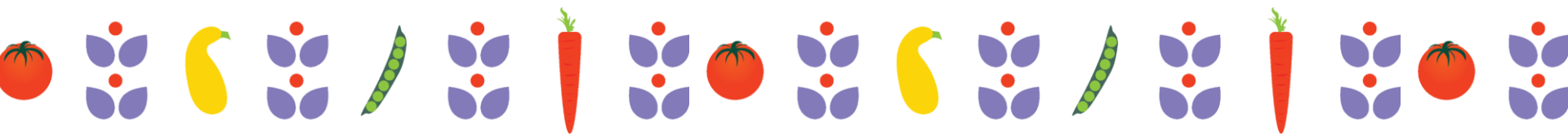
Planting Depth: ☒ on soil ☐ 1/8" ☒ 1/4" ☐ 1/2" ☐ 1"

Days 'til Harvest: *40-70*

• greenvillelibrary.org/seed-library •

Photo by Greenville County Library System





Watching it grow...

- Inventory Tracking
 - Shared document or database
 - Data gathered
- Seed Distribution
 - Setting your limits
- Mail Delivery
- Community Outreach Opportunities
- Bookmobile

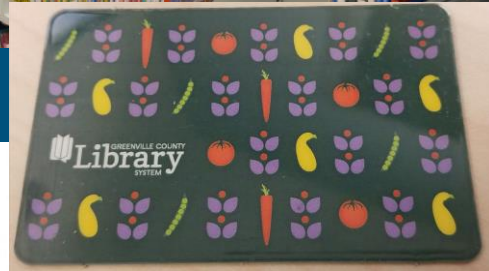
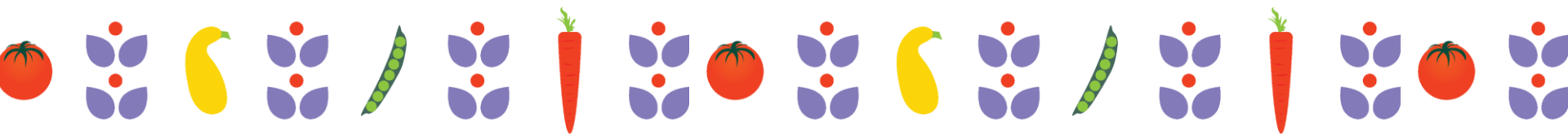


Photo by Greenville County Library System





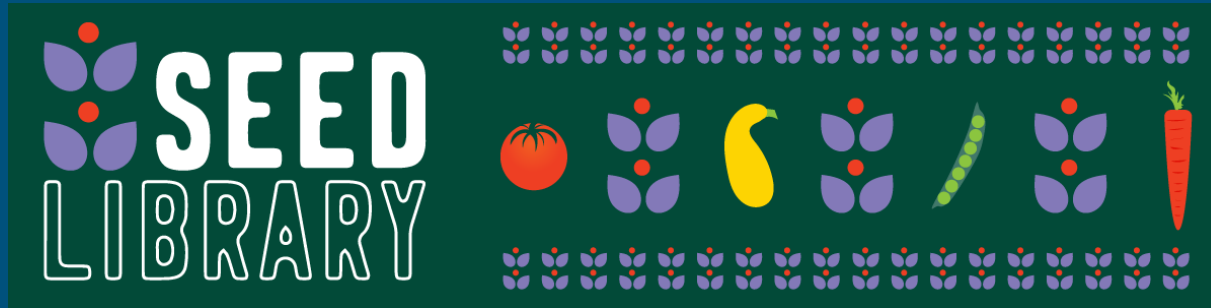
More to Explore...

- Outreach Opportunities
 - Farmers Markets
 - Adult, youth, and teen programs
- Highlight your collection
 - Cookbooks
 - Nutrition
 - Gardening
 - Sustainability
- Library Card
- Social Media



Photo by Greenville County Library System





Greenville County Library System
Greenville, South Carolina

www.greenvillelibrary.org/seed-library