

## **What's All This Fuss About Growing and Eating Heirloom Plants?**

The Concord Seed Lending Library lends only open-pollinated and heirloom seeds through its program at the Fowler Branch in West Concord. What's all the fuss about this type of seed? Join us for our 2014 opening and find out!

In this presentation, we will look at how these seeds became heirlooms, how to find them, and how to select ones that you'll both enjoy and that have a better chance of thriving in our area. We'll talk some about which ones are easy to make a part of your future planting stock through saving seed yourself. We'll also talk about how heirloom varieties produce highly delicious and nutritious food!

The Concord Seed Lending Library accepts your donation of properly-saved, open-pollinated seed all year long. Feel free to bring your seed donation to this event.

Agenda:

1. What are heirloom and open-pollinated seeds?
2. Why growing heirlooms are important
3. How heirloom varieties have been handed down through generations
4. How they became scarce; what's being done about it
5. Where to find these seeds -- catalogs, seed saving gardeners
6. Selecting varieties for local gardens
7. Which ones are easy for beginners to save

**ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:** Deborah Bier began gardening more than 50 years ago. She founded and manages the 1878 heirloom kitchen garden at Thoreau Farm in Concord, the birthplace of Henry David Thoreau. She and her husband garden in their suburban backyard farm, and also garden at Concord's East Quarter Farm community garden. They grow 95+% open-pollinated, heirloom varieties of approximately 200 different types for their own table, to feed their friends and laying hens.