



Miss Panda's Books

Seed Saving



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Miss Panda's Books

Miss Panda's Books Series helps children learn about plants, animals, and how to care for them. We teach the basic traditional knowledge of being self-sufficient by growing your own food and making healthy choices. Each book in every set will educate your child on a subject related to the set topic, and you can find a fun craft idea on the last page. We hope these books will bring your children wisdom and joy!

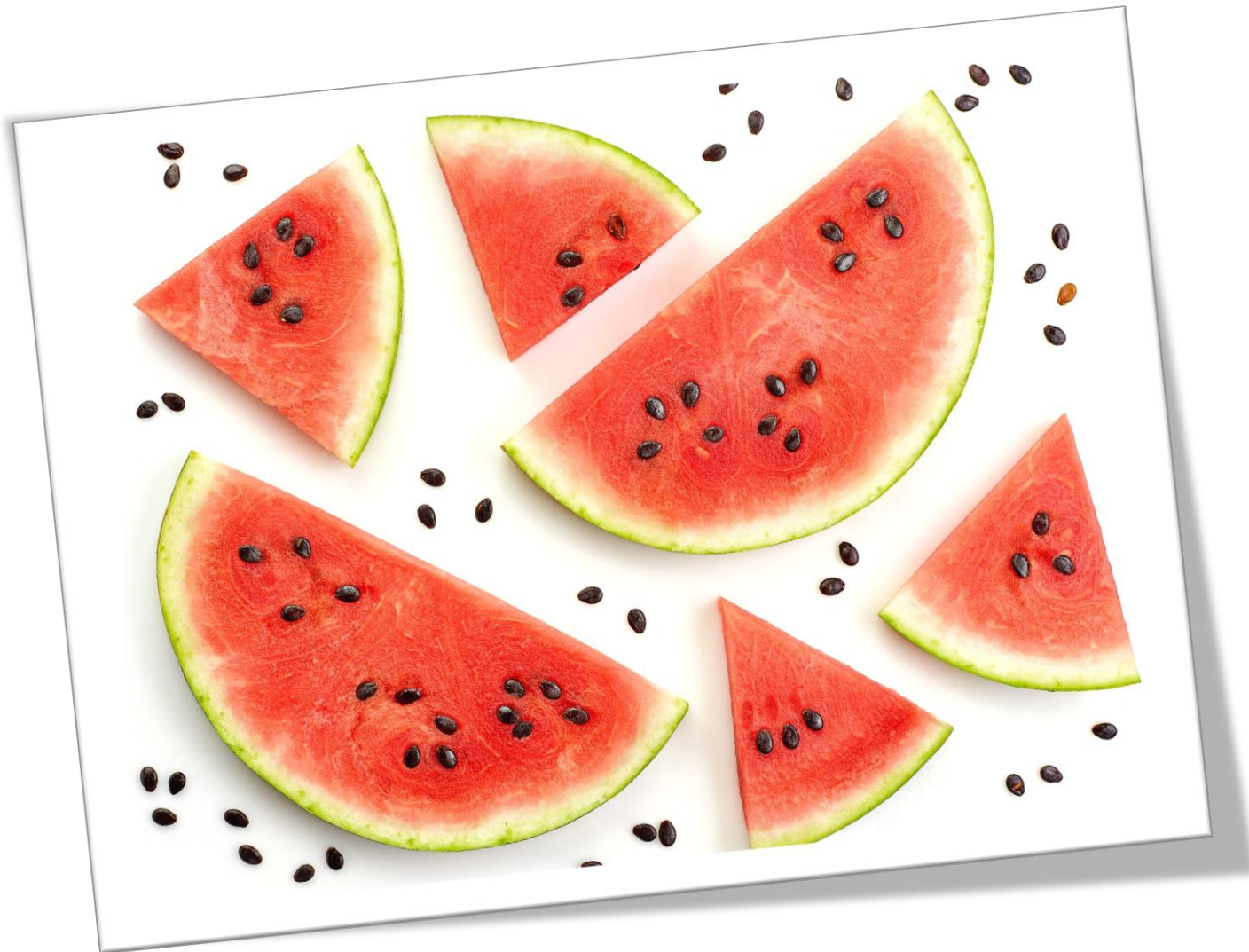
After your plant produces fruit or vegetables, and the growing season is coming to an end, you may notice your plant "bolt", or grow new, big stems with flowers. This means the plant has done its job, and it makes new seeds for next Spring.



Many plants need to be planted each year by seed (annual), but there are some plants that will grow back year after year. These are called perennials. Some types of flowers, fruits, and trees are perennials. Think of a lilac bush. Each spring, it blooms again and fills the air with its sweet aroma.



Fruits have seeds inside that can be scooped out and saved for new plants. You'll let the seeds dry completely, and store them in a glass jar or envelope, somewhere cool and dry.



Some vegetables that grow under the soil will begin to grow new sprouts on the vegetable, like potatoes. If you plant that sprout in the soil, and give it water, air, and warmth, a new potato plant will grow!



Seeds from some fruits and nuts, like pumpkins and pecans, are good to eat and provide us with nutrients. Sunflower seeds are another great snack. We love seeds!



Seed Saving Activity (Step 4 of the Gardening Set Activities)

Supplies:

- Garden shears (grownups only)
- Envelope
- Harvested green bean plant with your selected bean pod still attached to the plant (from step 3)

Directions:

1. Leave your green bean pod attached to the plant after you harvest. Watch each day as it becomes dry and changes color. Your bean pod will be completely dry when you can hear the seeds rattle inside.
2. Once your bean pod is dry, trim it from the plant using garden shears (let a grownup do this step.)
3. Crack the pods open. This is a great step for kids to do.
4. Collect your bean seeds from inside the pod, and place them in your envelope.
5. Store your seeds in a cool, dry place.
6. You can plant these seeds when you're ready to start step 1 again!