

estimating viability: how long do seeds last?

See entire post at <http://awaytogarden.com/estimating-viability-how-long-do-seeds-last>

SEED VIABILITY ESTIMATES				
	FEDCO	JOHNNY'S	VERMONT EXT.	IOWA ST. EXT.
bean	2-3 years	2 years	3 years	3 years
beet	3-5 years	5 years	4 years	4 years
brassicas	3-5 years	5 years	3-5 years*	5 years*
carrot	2-3 years	3 years	3 years	
celery	2-3 years	5 years	3 years	
chard	3-5 years			
corn	2-3 years	2 years	2 years	2 years
cucumber	5-10 years	5 years	5 years	5 years
eggplant	2-3 years	5 years	4 years	
lettuce	2-3 years	5 years	6 years	5 years
leek	2 years	3 years	2 years	
melon (muskmelon)	5-10 years	5 years	5 years	5 years
melon (watermelon)	5-10 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
onion	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year
parsnip		1 year	1 year	
parsley		1 year	1 year	
peas	2-3 years	2 years	3 years	3 years
peppers	2-3 years	4 years	2 years	2 years
radish	3-5 years		5 years	5 years
spinach	2-3 years	1 year	3 years	5 years
squash/pumpkin	2-5 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
tomato	5-10 years	5 years	4 years	4 years
*VT: kale 4, Brussels 4, cabbage 4, broccoli 3, collards 5				
*IOWA ST: Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower 5				

More Help from Expert Sources:

- Fedco catalog on seed-saving, storage and shelf life
- Johnny's Selected Seeds catalog on shelf life of seeds and other FAQs
- University of Vermont Extension on saving and storing seed
- Iowa State University Extension on seed viability
- The Ark Institute FAQ on seed storage (regular and frozen methods) and viability

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