



# Seed Collection Cleaning, Saving & Storage

Paul Massey, Director Regenerations Botanical Garden



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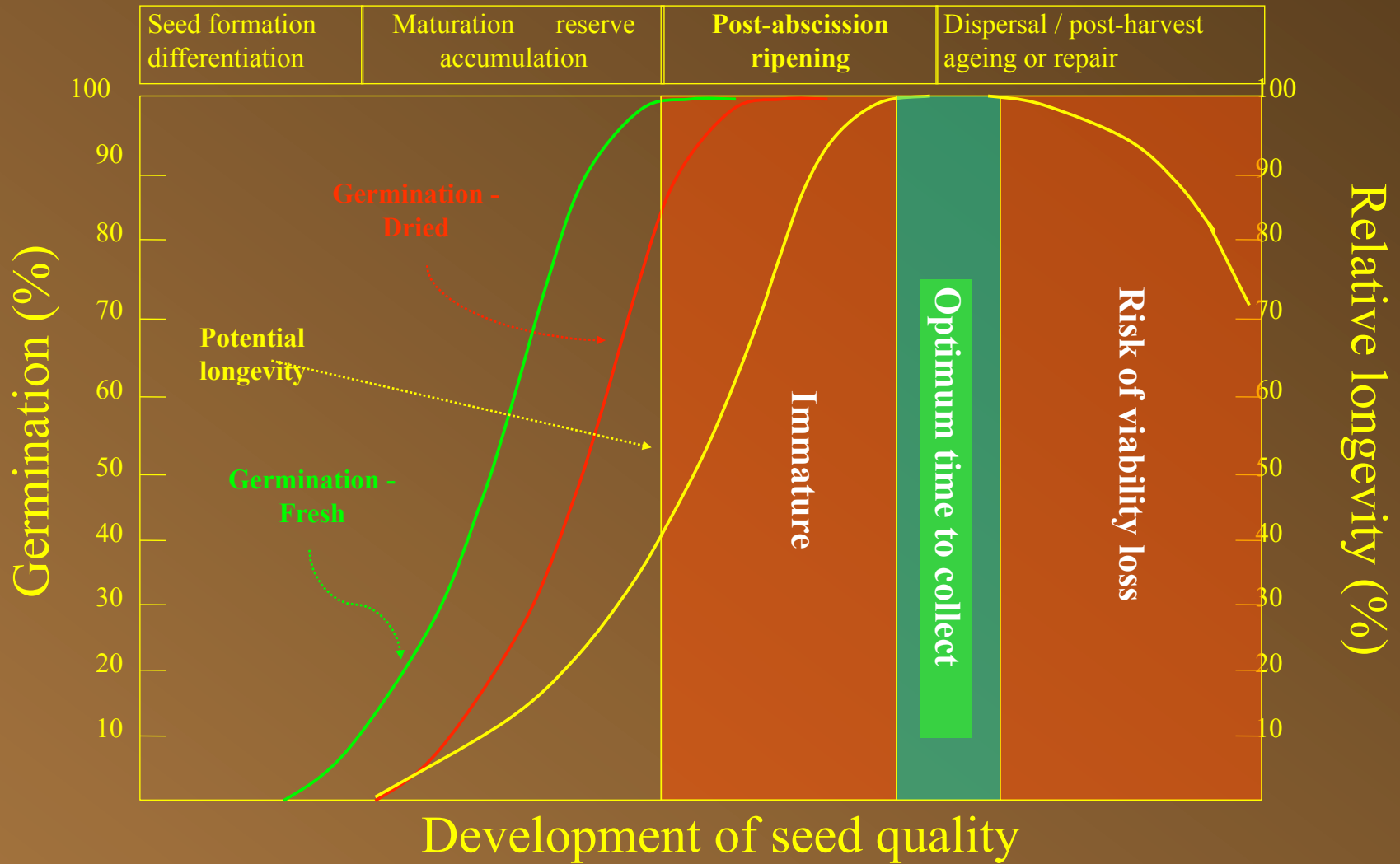




# Collection

- Collect high quality seed
- Make sure the seed is ripe!
- Cut test
- Timing
- Dry seeds asap upon full ripeness
- Use breathable bags for collecting dry seeds
- Plastic bags for fleshy fruits until cleaning
- Keep out of sunlight & heat
- Collect from the best for





Source: Robin Probert, Millennium Seed Bank Project



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# Why Clean Seed?

- Reduce bulk of non-seed material (pods, twigs, flesh, etc.) for easier drying & storage
- Protect the health of the seed by:
  - Removing insects & infested seeds
  - Removing moldy, dead, and germinating seeds
- Disinfecting with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/Disinfesting with Diatomaceous Earth (DE)





# Storage Categories

**Orthodox Seed** – water can be removed safely  
>90% seeds are orthodox

**Intermediate Seed** – some water can be removed

**Recalcitrant Seed** – water removal is lethal  
tropical fruit seeds can tend to be recalcitrant

*Source: Robin Probert, Millennium Seed Bank Project*



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# Storage Basics

- Dry + Cool is the magic formula
- These conditions slow the metabolism of the seed, extending its life
- Silica gel and other desiccants makes drying seed easy





# Storage Basics

- Once dried, store in an airtight container
- Store in refrigerator is safest—freezing can harm seed
- When you take sealed container out of fridge, let it come to room temperature before opening



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# Mini Seed Bank Kit



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**Diatomaceous Earth**

*CAUTION-do not breathe the dust of this product*

**SAVE OUR SEEDS**  
[www.hawaiiseed.org](http://www.hawaiiseed.org) 808-6...

'Seed'



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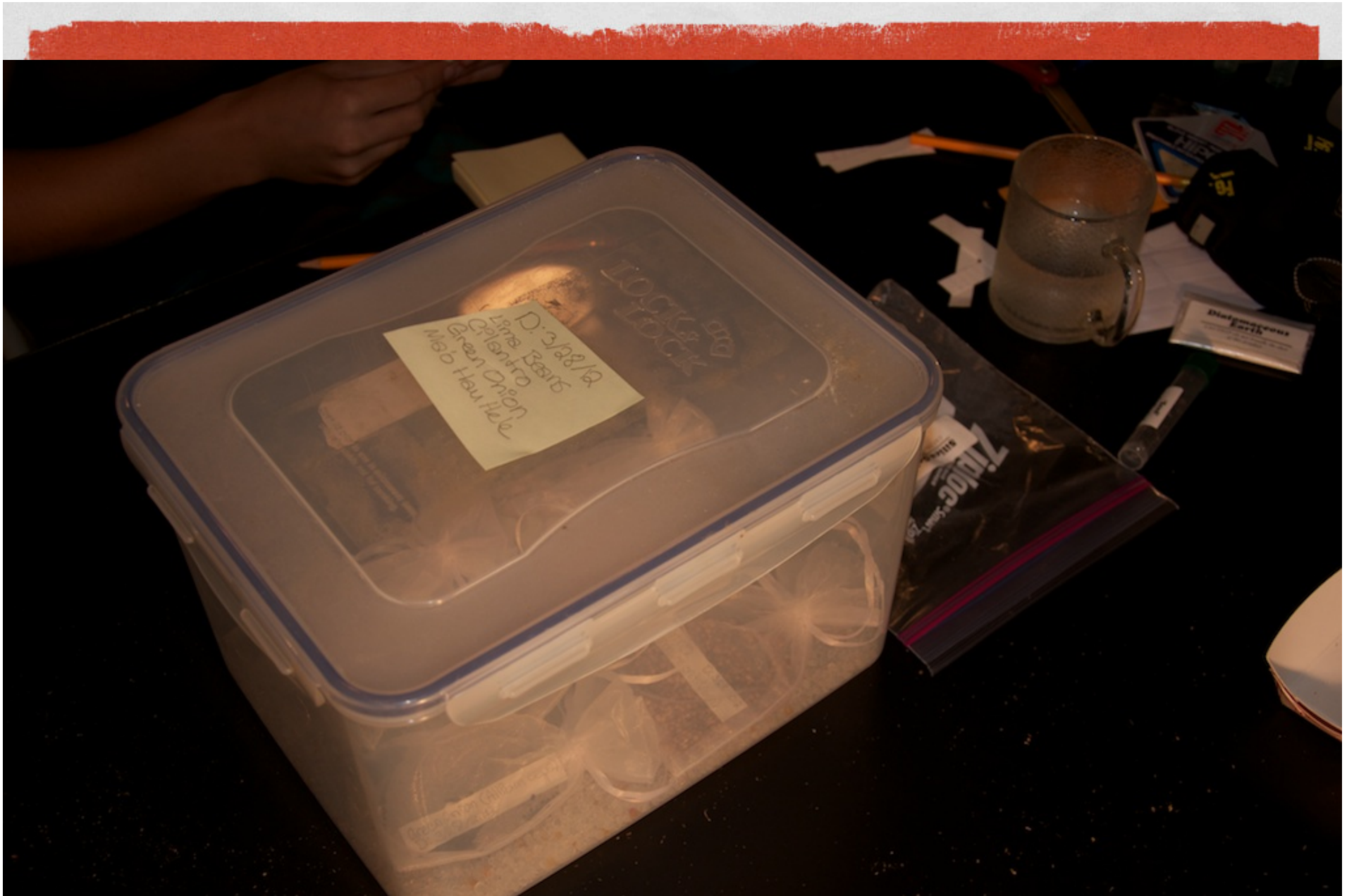
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**Mahalo!**