

Seed Cleaning, Saving & Storage



**Kaua'i Community
Seed Bank & Library**



regenerations
botanical garden

KAUA'I COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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_2O_2 /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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Hawaiian Islands Seed Network



- **a web-based tool for sharing valuable planting material and associated knowledge**
- **empowers our community to increase production and distribution of locally adapted seed**
- **currently seeking sources of funding**



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Mahalo!