

Seeing Seeds:

A Journey into the World of Seedheads, Pods, and Fruit

WHAT IS A SEED?

“both the beginning and the end of a plant’s life”

“an embryo in a picnic basket”

DIVERSE FORMS

Seedheads, pods, fruit, nuts, “naked seeds,” things that aren’t seeds...

DISPERSAL: SEEDS ON THE MOVE

wind travelers: dandelion, milkweed

sailors: lotus, coconut

“pop stars”: jewelweed, wisteria

hitchhikers: teasel, burdock

In the belly of the beast—food voyagers:
apple, raspberry

FURTHER READING

Seeing Seeds: A Journey into the World of Seedheads, Pods, and Fruit, by Teri Dunn Chace with photography by Robert Llewellyn

An Orchard Invisible: A Natural History of Seeds, by Jonathan Silvertown

Seedtime: On the History, Husbandry, Politics, and Promise of Seeds, by Scott Chaskey

WEBSITES

Seed Savers Exchange, seedsavers.org

Rocky Mtn. Seed Alliance, rockymountainseeds.org

+

terichacewriter.com, robertllewellyn.com



“Nature does not move in mysterious ways, really. She just moves so slowly we’re inclined to lose patience and stop watching before she gets around to the revelations.” —Barbara Kingsolver

A QUICK SEEDY GLOSSARY

Achene—a one-seeded fruit

Angiosperm—a flowering plant

Cotyledon—embryonic leaf

Dicot—“two cotyledons”

Dioecious—separate male and female flowers/plants

Endosperm—starch (and/or oil, protein) inside a seed meant for the nourishment of the embryo

Gymnosperm—“naked seeds” (seeds are not enclosed in an ovary)

Monecious—male and female flowers on the same plant

Monocot—“one cotyledon”

Nut—a type of fruit with a hard shell that encloses the seed (or seeds)

Ovule—gives rise to and contains the female reproductive cells

Parthenocarpic—fruit produced without fertilization of ovules, thus the fruit is seedless

