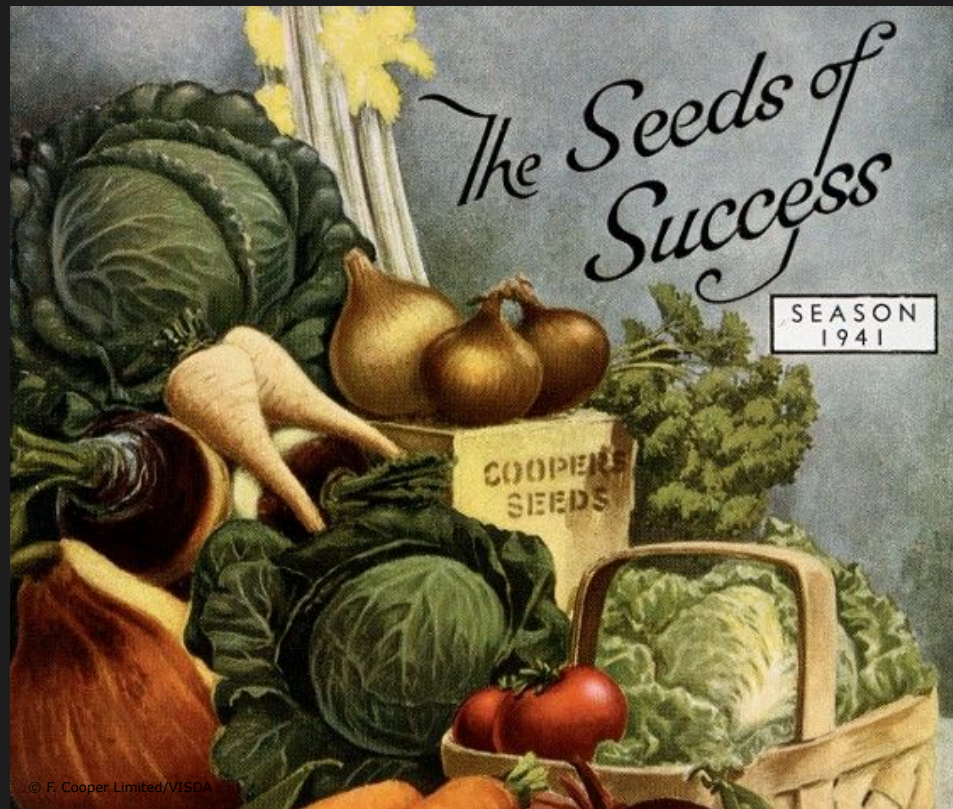


# Growing seed savers

Around the plants



# Garden History

Almost all plants we are eating came from outside



© Notredame.dk/VISDA

All crop pictures: © Frøsamlerne/VISDA

Immigration

Trade

Stealing



# Garden History

Who brought the plants? (neolithic-medieval)

**4000 BC (Neolithic)**

**Immigration: Farmers**

Barley (*Hordeum*), wheat (*Triticum*)

**1800 BC (Bronze age)**

**Trade: merchants/immigration: Farmers**

Pea (*Pisum sativum*)

**0 (Iron age)**

Poppy (*Papaver somniferum*)

Goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*)

Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*)

Kale (*Brassica*), onion (*Allium*)

Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*)

**1000 (Viking age)**

**1200 (Early Medieval)**

**Immigration: monks**

Carrot (*Daucus*), Beetroot (*Beta*)

**1500 (Late Medieval)**

**Immigration: Dutch gardeners**

White cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*),

Orange carrot (*Daucus carota*)

**Stealing: explorers of "The New World"**

Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*)

Tomato (*Solanum tuberosum*)



**Plants were used for: food, medicine, flavour**  
- to nourish, satiate, and balance the body

# Garden History

Plants have gradually changed to accommodate

- Climate
- Pests
- Human needs

- Crossing

- Mutation

- Selection

Spontaneously



Example: Barley

Wild plant: seeds ripen over a long time

spike breaks to spread seeds



Culture plant: Seeds ripen at the same time

spike doesn't break (easy to harvest)

High yield

Good taste



# Garden History

Vegetables were grown locally

## Gardens



## Monasteries



Castles and estates

Market gardeners



seed production

varieties

High agrobiodiversity



# Garden History

Vegetables were grown locally

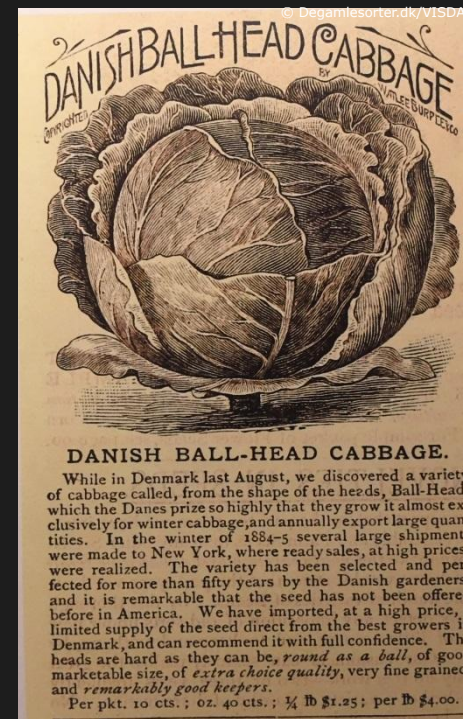
Some were experts in growing and taking seeds from difficult vegetables



- Dutch gardeners settled on the island Amager
- Experts in white cabbage and carrots



Seed catalogue:  
A. Hansen Amagerfrø 1955



'Amager' varieties  
White cabbage: 'Høj Amager'  
= 'Danish Ball Head Cabbage'



# Garden History

Market gardeners – the golden years 1880-1950

## Market gardeners needed seeds

- clean
- germinable
- true-to-type

## This resulted in

- many varieties
- high quality
- national testing



© Degamlesorter.dk/VISDA

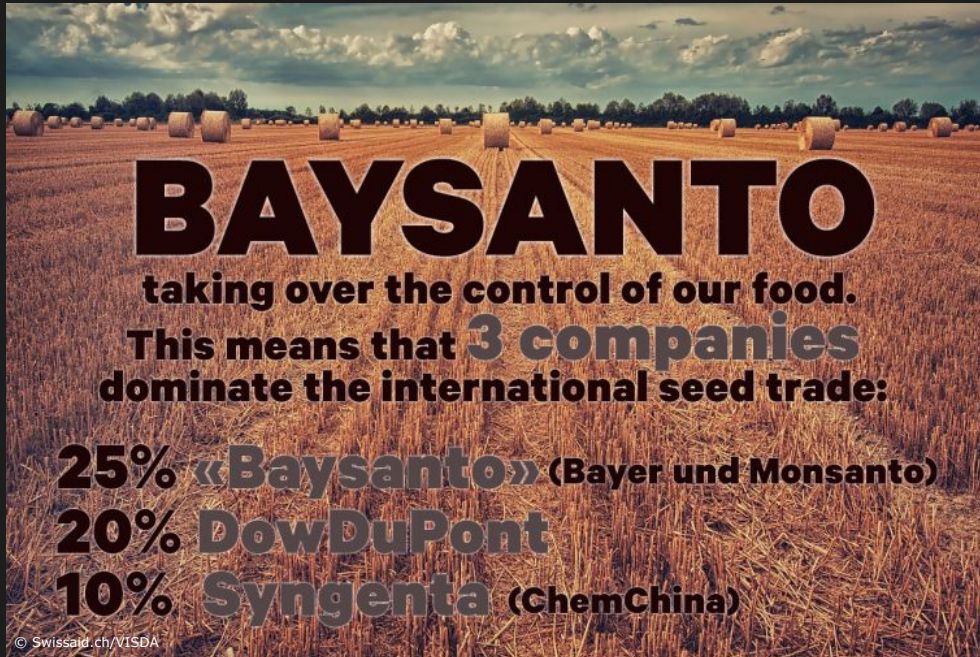
Breeding material of carrot 'Nantes' in seed catalogue  
J.E.Ohlsens Enke 1950



# Garden History

Very few seed companies – no Danish breeding

## Multinational seed companies



**BAYSANTO**  
taking over the control of our food.  
This means that **3 companies**  
dominate the international seed trade:

- 25% «Baysanto»** (Bayer und Monsanto)
- 20% DowDuPont**
- 10% Syngenta** (ChemChina)

© Swissaid.ch/VISDA

- No Danish breeding
- No Danish seed production

**Low agrobiodiversity**



# Garden History

But many 'forgotten plants' are still here

Relict plants



Heirloom plants



Gene banks



# Garden History

Towards higher agrobiodiversity - Save the seeds



© Frøsamlerne/VISDA

We can find, describe, and grow them to protect them



# END OF STORY



ViSDA certified  
- Copyright under control

