

Practical aspects of seed Lithuanian seed legislation

In Lithuania, non-commercial public seed exchange is officially permitted as of the beginning of 2019. Before that, marketing/exchange of unregistered variety seeds was prohibited by law, but through the effort of seed savers and cooperation with relevant state institutions, the first step towards preservation of heritage varieties has been reached. Now, seed savers are allowed to make a public offer of their own vegetable seeds for other seed savers, provided they follow the new requirements such as registration with the authorities, listing the seeds to be exchanged, and their amounts. There are certain amounts that cannot be exceeded and certain requirements for labelling.

Benefits and possibilities:

- Old heritage varieties can now officially and publicly *move* between seed-savers and seed-users.
- Seeds saving, seed-exchange, and old varieties can become more public.

Requirements:

- The new possibilities apply to regulated vegetable species only (as listed in art. 4 of Lithuanian veg. seed regulation).
- Seed saver providing seeds has to register with Plant Protection Agency and register the species name, name of the variety and the amount of seeds to be exchanged for that year. This has to be done every year.
- Seed savers can provide only their own grown seeds.
- The amounts of seeds are limited to certain quantities: 5kg in total for legume seeds; 500g in total for onion, leaf beet, beetroot, turnip, pumpkin, carrot, radish, spinach, chervil, asparagus, watermelon and lettuce; 100g in total for other vegetables.
- Seeds have to be in a package and labelled "for seed exchange".
- Exchange to currency is not permitted.
- Varieties must not be registered in the national variety register or EU Common Catalogue.
- Seed quality and plant health must be observed; diseases should not be spread.



Decision support tree for seed marketing and exchange in Lithuania

I would like to distribute my home grown plant seeds.
What should I know and how to do it legally?

