

Practical aspects of Latvian seed legislation

The main seed law in Latvia is the Law on Seed Circulation. There are 20 sets of Cabinet of Ministers' regulations in effect for implementing the seed law. Seed exchange for non-commercial use by Latvian seed savers has been tolerated but is not yet officially permitted in the law. A public debate about sale of seeds for non-commercial use occurred in 2012 due to a small nursery being accused of violating the law permitting sale of only registered varieties. This conflict eventually resulted in the addition of a new article to the Latvian Law on Seed Circulation, defining Collectors' Varieties and creating a space for vegetable seed collectors to sell seeds from their collections as long as they register with the State Plant Protection service each year and fulfil all requirements.

Such collectors are permitted to market and exchange vegetable seeds from their own collections, providing they label the species, its unofficial name, amount, name of the collector, year, and the term "collector's variety." The varieties traded must not be official varieties registered in the national variety register or the EU Common Catalogue. Seed should be of good quality and plant health rules should be followed.



Decision support tree for seed marketing and exchange in Latvia

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

