

## **Longwood Gardens Community Read 2019 • Additional Readings (teen and adult)**

We encourage you to continue reading about seeds and the natural world. You will find these titles at public libraries and local bookstores in your community.

**Gathering: Memoir of a Seed Saver** / by Diane Ott Whealy. (Seed Savers Exchange, 2011)

“The love for the land and the respect for heirloom seeds that Diane shared with her husband, Kent Whealy, led to their starting Seed Savers Exchange in 1975. [It] began humbly as a simple exchange of seeds among passionate gardeners who sought to preserve the rich gardening heritage their ancestors had brought to this country. Seeds that Ott Whealy herself inherited from her paternal grandparents were the impetus for the formation of Seed Savers Exchange, whose membership has grown from a small coterie to more than thirteen thousand...Whealy's down-to-earth narrative traces her fascinating journey from Oregon to Kansas to Missouri then back home to Iowa where, in 1986, Heritage Farm became the permanent home of Seed Savers Exchange.”

([www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org))

**The Last Great Plant Hunt: The Story of Kew's Millennium Seed Bank** / by Carolyn Fry, Sue Seddon and Gail Vines. (Kew Publishing, 2011)

“*The Last Great Plant Hunt* describes the vital work of the Millennium Seed Bank project and its partner organizations which are now found in more than fifty countries worldwide. From the collection and care of seeds to their use in conservation research, all practical aspects of seed storage are discussed. Additional chapters consider the future of global seed conservation. Timely and informed, *The Last Great Plant Hunt* recounts the history and details the mission of this impressive and ever more necessary international conservation effort.” (<http://press.uchicago.edu>)

**An Orchard Invisible: A Natural History of Seeds** / by Jonathan Silvertown; illustrations by Amy Whitesides. (The University of Chicago Press, 2009)

“Beginning with the evolution of the first seed plant from fernlike ancestors more than 360 million years ago, Silvertown carries his tale through epochs and around the globe. In a clear and engaging style, he delves into the science of seeds: How and why do some lie dormant for years on end? How did seeds evolve? The wide variety of uses that humans have developed for seeds of all sorts also receives a fascinating look, studded with examples, including foods, oils, perfumes, and pharmaceuticals.”

(<http://press.uchicago.edu>)



**Seedheads in the Garden** / by Noël Kingsbury; photographs by Jo Whitworth. (Timber Press, 2006)

A beautifully photographed, inspiring how-to for incorporating seedheads into your ornamental garden. “Seedheads bring impact to late summer borders and linger to provide interest well into autumn and winter. They look dramatic set against a backdrop of fading flowers, associate well with grasses and native plants, and are key components of the naturalistic garden in which every phase of a plant is enjoyed from first shoot to final decay. After providing historical context, Noël Kingsbury explains how plants reproduce and participate in the garden's wider ecology, and explores seedheads' role in diverse gardens worldwide.” ([www.timberpress.com](http://www.timberpress.com))

**Seeds on Ice: Svalbard and the Global Seed Vault** / by Cary Fowler; photographs by Mari Tefre, with additional photographs by Jim Richardson. (Prospecta Press, 2016)

“In this readable and beautifully illustrated book, Cary Fowler reminds us of our debt to the world of plants and our responsibility for forward-looking stewardship of the variety of plant life, especially of the genetic variety of those plants that are the foundation of global agriculture. It is a personal and passionate reminder that we should not take our reliance on the world of plants for granted, and that in a changing and unpredictable world, the only way to make sure that agriculture remains productive and is resilient for the future, is to ensure that it is adaptable. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault is a key component of global efforts to secure the diversity of our most important crop plants to ensure that they meet our needs for the long term, and this book tells us the inside story of how the vault came to be.” ([www.prospectapress.com](http://www.prospectapress.com))

**Seeds, Sex and Civilization: How the Hidden Life of Plants has Shaped our World** / by Peter Thompson, [Stephen Harris]. (Thames & Hudson, 2010)

“Seeds have influenced evolution, and for millennia they have influenced and sometimes determined where and how we live. This is an epic tale, given added enchantment by the fact that to most of us seeds mean little more than tiny objects in paper packets: who thinks first of rice, wheat, coffee, nuts, peas, beans, or olives? Here, Peter Thompson unfolds the absorbing history of how, after centuries of investigation, we finally discovered what seeds do and how they work.” ([www.thamesandhudsonusa.com](http://www.thamesandhudsonusa.com))

