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Some seeds can remain viable in storage for several years if stored under optimal conditions—namely low humidity and low temperature (42°F (15°C)). A general formula for success is that the sum of the temperature (°F) and % relative humidity should be less than 100. The actual storage life will depend upon the viability and moisture content of the seed when initially placed in storage, the specific variety, and the conditions of the storage environment.

We recommend that you keep seeds in a sealed glass jar in the refrigerator. Include a desiccant in the jar.

If your seed has been stored for any length of time, you may wish to test a sample of seeds to see if they will still germinate well. Place some seeds between two damp pieces of paper towel, enclose in a zip lock sandwich bag and place in a temperature controlled environment suitable to the variety's specific germination requirements. After several days (or longer, for slow-to-germinate varieties), check to see how many of the seeds have germinated

Note that both germination rates *and* seed viability can decline with age of the seed. Viability refers to the seed's ability to produce a vigorous seedling. Viability typically declines *before* germination rates decline, so it is possible for old seed to still germinate yet produce weak seedlings.

When retrieving seeds from storage, allow the container to reach room temperature before opening it. This will help prevent condensation from forming on the seeds and inside the container.

NOTE: The charts below reflect an average range derived from our experience and data gathered from expert sources (see below for citations). **Your results may vary** depending upon environmental variables and the condition of the seed prior to storage. Please note that all data is for raw seed. Pelleted seed, regardless of the variety, should be used within one year, as the pelleting process reduces seed longevity.

Cover Crops/Farm Seed	
Type	Average Storage Life in Years Under Favorable Storage Conditions
Alfalfa	2–5
Barley	3–5
Buckwheat	2–5
Cowpea	3–5
Clover, Crimson	5
Clover, White	5
Millett	1–2
Oats	1–4
Rapeseed	3–5
Rye	1–3
Sorghum	1–2
Sudangrass	1–4
Vetch, common	3–5
Vetch, hairy	5
Wheat, common	3–5

Vegetables	
Type	Average Storage Life in Years Under Favorable Storage Conditions
Artichoke & Cardoon	1-4
Arugula	6
Asian Greens	3
Asparagus	3-4
Beans	2-4
Beets	2-5
Broccoli	3-5
Brussels Sprouts	3-5
Cabbage	3-5
Cabbage, Chinese	3-5
Carrots	3-4
Cauliflower	4-5
Celery & Celeriac	3-5
Chicory	4-5
Collards	3-5
Corn, Sweet	1-3
Cress	5
Cucumber	3-6
Dandelion	1-2
Eggplant	4-5
Endive	5
Fennel	3-4
Kale	3-5
Kohlrabi	3-5
Leeks	2-3
Lentil	1-2
Lettuce	1-6
Melon	3-6
Mustard	4
Okra	2-3
Onions	1-2
Parsnip	1-3
Peas	2-4
Peppers	2-5
Pumpkins	4-6
Purslane	3-5
Radish	4-5
Rutabaga	3-5
Salsify	1-2
Soybean	3-5
Spinach	1-5
Squash & Gourds	3-6
Swiss Chard	2-5
Tomato	3-7
Turnip	4-5
Watermelon	4-5

Herbs	
Type	Average Storage Life in Years Under Favorable Storage Conditions
Angelica	2
Anise	1-3
Basil, sweet	3-5
Borage	1-4
Caraway	1-2
Catnip	3
Chamomile	4
Chervil	1-4
Chives	1-3
Cilantro/Coriander	1-4
Cumin	1-3
Dill	1-4
Epazote	3
Fennel	1-2
Hyssop	1-4
Lavender	4
Lemon Balm	1-4
Lemon Grass	3
Lovage	1-3
Marjoram	1-4
Mexican Mint Marigold	4
Mountain Mint	4
Oregano	4
Parsley	1-4
Rosemary	1-4
Sage	1-3
Savory	1-4
Thyme	1-4
Valerian	2-3

Fruits	
Type	Average Storage Life in Years Under Favorable Storage Conditions
Rhubarb	1-2
Strawberry	5
Melon	3-6
Watermelon	4-5

Flowers	
Type	Average Storage Life in Years Under Favorable Storage Conditions
Ageratum	3–5
Agrostemma	3
Alyssum	3–5
Ammi	2
Amaranthus	4–5
Aquilegia (Columbine)	1–2
Artemisia	1–5
Asclepias	1
Aster	1–2
Bachelor's Buttons	3–5
Bells of Ireland	2
Calendula	4–6
Carnation	3–5
Celosia	2–4
Centaurea	1–5
Coneflower	1–2
Cosmos	3–5
Dahlia	2–5
Daisy	3
Delphinium	1–3
Dianthus (Sweet William)	3–5
Didiscus	1
Digitalis	1–2
Dusty Miller	3–5
Echinacea	4
Eryngium	2
Eucalyptus	4
Euphorbia	4
Forget-me-Not	2
Gomphrena (Globe Amaranth)	3–5
Gypsophila	2–4
Hyacinth Bean	3–5
Impatiens	1–2
Larkspur	1–3
Lavender	1–3
Lisianthus	2–3
Lupine	3–5
Marigold	2–5
Matricaria	1–3
Monarda	4
Nasturtium	3–7
Nigella	3–5
Pansy	1–2
Phlox	1–3
Poppy	2–4
Salvia	1–3
Saponaria	2–5
Scabiosa	2–5
Snapdragon	3–5
Statice	1–2
Stock	4–5
Strawflower	1–2
Sunflowers	3–5
Sweet Pea	3–5
Verbena	1–5
Viola (Pansy)	1–2
Yarrow	3–5
Zinnia	2–5

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