

BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

Tip of the Week

by Beverly Wickersham

“How to Harvest and Store Seeds from Native Plants”

Step 1) **OBSERVE** and make notes on location, bloom time, and seed (fruit) ripening dates; mark plants with a colorful ribbon while they are still identifiable.

Step 2) **Harvest** the seed when mature—at full size and beginning to ripen in color. It is best to collect most seedpods before they completely dry and split open.

Step 3) **ALLOW** seed to dry in a cool, dark, and dry location for 1-3 days. For ventilation, place the seed on an elevated screen.

Step 4) **CLEAN** seed by separating it from chaff or fleshy fruits by lightly rubbing it over a screening device that allows the chaff to fall through.

Step 5) **STORE** the seed in breathable containers like paper bags or envelopes in a cool, dark, dry environment. Do not store in plastic bags or plastic containers.

Step 6) **LABEL** seeds with the name of the plant species—*Chilopsis linearis*, the common name—Desert Willow, the date of harvest, and the location of harvest.

Now is the time to collect, label, and store those seeds from your favorite plants you loved this season. If you have any questions, contact ask.bcmga@gmail.com
Or check out aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu

