

April 21, 2014

### The Miracle of a Seed

by Lydia Holley

Have you ever contemplated the power, tenacity, and wonder of a seed? There have been two instances lately that have made me realize just how remarkable a tiny seed can be.

The first instance is in a small patch of crimson clover (*trifolium incarnatum*) growing in my garden. I didn't plant crimson clover. It just appeared. But I know where it came from. Over a mile away, there lives a man who has planted his pasture in crimson clover. It is a beautiful sight to see in spring.



I've been noticing that the country road to his home is lined for miles with the cheerful sight of crimson clover. Seeds from his pasture have traveled on the wind, and landed on the sides of the road. And that's where my crimson clover came from. One of those tiny seeds made it into my garden. And that seed germinated. It will flower and eventually it, too, will form seeds, and the cycle of life will continue. I would love to have an entire pasture of crimson clover, just like the gentleman who lives down the road. And perhaps I will someday. All because a seed dropped into my garden.

I was reminded of the strength of a seed a second time this week when I planted seeds of yellow crookneck summer squash. This particular squash has a reputation for being quite prolific. I planted two seeds each in four holes, knowing that I'll get at least four plants that way. I don't need more than four plants, since I'm only feeding two people. It's amazing the amount of food that can come from a seed less than 1/2 inch in size. Do you know the old joke about squash? It's so prolific, that the only time people who live in small towns lock their cars is during squash season—not to keep thieves from stealing anything out of their cars, but to keep gardeners from putting bags of squash into them!

If you've never grown vegetables before, squash is the perfect vegetable to try first. Most gardeners have already planted their squash, but it's not too late to plant right now. Plant your seeds about one inch deep, and at least two feet apart. They need a lot of room to spread out. Sprinkle the soil with water after planting. In about 50 days you will have thick vines with golden treasure hidden under giant leaves. When you harvest your squash, be sure to wear gloves, as the leaves can irritate. And pick often. Squash are best when they are young and tender.

*For more information, go to <http://henderson-co-tx-mq.org/> or contact Judy Haldeman at 903-479-1178.*