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**GRAND OPENING FOR CLEVELAND-AREA SEED LIBRARIES**

*Cleveland Seed Bank launches seed libraries across Cleveland, Willoughby, Elyria & Cleveland Heights*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLEVELAND, March 14, 2018 — The Cleveland Seed Bank (CSB) announces the grand opening of their seed libraries on Tuesday, March 20th, the first day of spring. Seed libraries are sprouting up across the city, and since 2013, the seed library program has grown, now with 10 seed libraries in Cleveland.

This is the first year for the West River Branch of the Elyria Public Library, the Jefferson Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, and the mobile Book Bike and BookBox. *“CPL has two mobile library units that offer traditional library services at two of the City’s largest summer concert series, Wade Oval Wednesday and Edgewater LIVE. Offering seed checkout at these locations can increase awareness of this initiative”*, stated Felton Thomas, Jr., Executive Director of the Cleveland Public Library.

Locals are encouraged to visit their nearest seed library to freely check-out up to 5 seed packets per month from a selection of 24 organic, open-pollinated herb, vegetable, and edible flower seeds. Seed libraries reconnect local people with their food, encourage stewardship of biodiversity, and promote active, healthy lifestyles. *“Seed libraries are a powerful resource for food insecure communities and urban gardeners to access quality seed so that Cleveland residents have the opportunity to grow their own food and participate in healthy lifestyles,”* said CSB Education Coordinator, Kimmy Lessman.

The libraries will also be hosting Seed Saving 101 workshops at library branch locations beginning in April. The seed saving course is free but pre-registration is required online (FB link: [https://www.facebook.com/pg/ClevelandSeedBank/events/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/ClevelandSeedBank/events/?ref=page_internal)).

Branch locations for the seed library and educational event include:

- Cleveland Public Library – Addison Branch library: 6901 Superior Ave.
- Cleveland Public Library – Carnegie West Branch: 1900 Fulton Road
- Cleveland Public Library – Jefferson Branch: 850 Jefferson Ave
- Cleveland Public Library – Main Branch: 325 Superior Ave.
- Coventry branch: 1925 Coventry Rd.
- Elyria Public Library – West River Branch: 1194 West River Road
- Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library: 30 Public Sq.
- Cleveland Public Library Bookbox at Edgewater LIVE: 6500 Cleveland Memorial Shoreway (every Thursday from June 8 – August 10)
- Cleveland Public Library Bookbox at Wade Oval Wednesdays: 10820 East Blvd. (every Wednesday from June 13 – August 29)

The seed libraries will be open from the first day of spring, March 20<sup>th</sup> until the first day of fall, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. At the end of the season, growers can swap seeds during the Annual Winter or

Spring Seed Swaps, or by becoming a member of the Cleveland Seed Bank online seed exchange.  
(<http://www.clevelandseedbank.org/seed-bank/>)

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**About the Cleveland Seed Bank** The Cleveland Seed Bank (CSB) is a nonprofit organization in Northeast Ohio that facilitates, educates and is building a community network of local seed savers. We partner with 3 different public library systems to host 10 Seed Libraries which span 2 counties in Greater Cleveland. CSB was formed to address a fundamental gap in our local food system: a regional, diverse, and community-stewarded seed supply. The Cleveland Seed Bank has grown into the largest organization of seed savers in the state of Ohio. Learn more at:  
<http://www.clevelandseedbank.org>