



2023 Abenaki Seeds Project Report

The Abenaki Seeds Project is a collaborative effort between Abenaki Trails Project, Abenaki Helping Abenaki Food Pantry, Hopkinton Historical Society, Colby Sawyer College, Warner Public Market, and Kearsarge Food Hub. For the third year in a row, these partners have come together to implement this project, and each year has seen an evolution. At its foundation, this is a community building and educational project. Together the partners facilitate the distribution of Abenaki Heritage seeds to home growers and community gardens. Throughout the season, this community of growers is provided with growing support and education about Indigenous food ways. Finally, part of the harvest is donated to the Abenaki Helping Abenaki Food Pantry. Each partner plays an important role in this grassroots effort.

In 2022:

- We had a tremendous amount of participation - over 50 different folks signed up to receive heritage Abenaki seeds.
- We created a comprehensive Grower's Guide that we distributed to all of our grower
- Seed Distribution Day went off without a hitch at three different locations.
- KFH, in partnership with Warner Public Market and the Abenaki Helping Abenaki Food Pantry, created an aggregation system to get the fruits of our growers' harvests back to the food pantry.
- We hosted two webinars to bring our community together and discuss how things were going in our gardens.
- This project dovetailed beautifully with the events held on Indigenous People's Day in Hopkinton. The event began in ceremony at Riverway Park, speeches were made, and a bas relief sculpture by Carol Lake was unveiled. The day ended with the Abenaki Harvest Food Tasting Event, where Darryl Peasley and Liz Charlebois cooked up some great Abenaki dishes to share with the community.
- A little bit of food was donated back to the Abenaki Helping Abenaki Food Pantry

In 2023:

- We again had a tremendous amount of participation - over 50 different folks signed up to receive heritage Abenaki seeds.

- We updated the Grower’s Guide to provide even more specific growing information and support
- Seed Distribution Day went off without a hitch at three different locations.
- We streamlined the aggregation process, making it simpler for growers, KFH, and the food pantry
- We enlisted the support of experienced growers to help bolster the harvest
- Created a google form to answer real-time questions from our growers, it was used some
- We hosted one in person event at the home of Abenaki Partners Bill & Sherry Gould. Mounds were built and planted.
- We created a 6-part video series exploring How To’s in the garden titled: "Growing Gardeners in the Kearsarge Area". The videos were made in the gardens at Colby-Sawyer College and produced by KFH.
 - Three videos were created specifically to support ASP growers (#1 building and planting your mound, #2 pollinating corn, #3 harvesting your crop)
 - Three other videos were made that were more general gardening videos.
 - All can be found on [KFH’s youtube channel](#)
- Significantly more food was donated to the Abenaki Helping Abenaki Food Pantry and Abenaki neighbors.
- KFH’s Bradford Elementary program dovetailed into the ASP and the third grade class grew beautiful mounds and nutritious bounty.

	2021 (pilot year)	2022	2023
Number of growers	11	59	57
Number of varieties of seeds	6	5	3
Number of seeds distributed (beans, squash, corn)	Did not track, but very few	2138	2426
Number of Squash starts distributed	0	0	81
Pounds of donated squash	Not recorded, very limited	112	490
Pounds of donated beans	Not recorded, very limited	15 pounds, mostly fresh	15 pounds of dried beans!
Number of donated corn	Not recorded, very limited	50 ears of fresh corn	16 pounds of dried corn!

