



JGS Pure Seed Project Report 1/7/08

As we reach into a new year it seems an appropriate time to look backward at last year and forward for a report on our Pure Seed Project. 2007 was a productive year for growing and harvesting our next generation gourds. Gourds that are a step toward the goal of IGS to provide more quality seed of varieties with assured trueness to type.

By the cooperative efforts of members and volunteers over 20 varieties of select gourds were advanced another generation by being grown in isolation or being selfed using hand pollinations. Those gourds were collected and stored under non-freezing conditions then graded and sorted for the best of type and quality. Some, not all yet, of these selected gourds have been opened and had seed extracted, washed, graded for quality, dried, labeled as individual lots and put in moisture resistant containers. In all, so far, over 13,500 seeds came from 39 harvested gourds representing 16 varieties.

Seed from each individual gourd is undergoing germination testing. A full set of results is still pending but expected soon.

Seed stock will be kept from each harvested gourd for producing a future generation and as back up. Excess seed from 3rd or greater generation gourds reproducing true types that test well will be available for IGS regular seed sales in 08.

It is good to have this project showing the potential it is upon reaching the mid years of what will be a 7 year effort required to meet our "Pure Seed" requirements and certification.

As this program continues further we fully anticipate it will grow in size and value to IGS and seed customers. It will additionally involve more effort and increasing need for help. In December our IGS director, Ida Kennedy, and her uncle Ed Minarik came to work for a day with seed harvest and drying. Their help contributed in a big way. Both were also involved with growing some of the gourds we worked on.

If you or someone you know might have an interest in growing for the Pure Seed Project in 08 or helping with seed harvest contact me directly or thru the Indiana Gourd Society web page/pure seed.

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**January & February
Are Catalog Months
And Time For
Research Articles,
Gardening Planning,
Crafting Planning,
& Lots of Rest
Before Work Time!**

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