

FIELD CONSERVATION OF TRADITIONAL VALENCIAN HORTICULTURAL VARIETIES

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The Valencian Agrarian Diversity Plan

In 2016, the Valencian government initiated a plan for the recovery, use and *in situ* conservation of traditional horticultural varieties of agricultural interest, called "**The Valencian Agrarian Diversity Plan**". This initiative was born from the need to preserve the Valencian agricultural diversity in the cultivated fields and to disseminate its knowledge among farmers and consumers. The most important tool of this plan was the creation of a **seed transfer service** based on a catalogue, **The Valencian Catalogue of Traditional Varieties**, available not only for the professional agricultural sector but also for horticulture enthusiasts in general, whether in home gardens, social gardens, educational centres, associations, etc.



Crop	Local variety	Seed Production (g)	Seed Transfer (g)	Number of seed batches
Eggplant	Albergínia blanca	2968	1123	296
	Albergínia llistada de Gandia	2190	941	326
	Albergínia roja de Gandia	3313	1156	196
Cowpea	Bajoca de careta curta	9812	2882	110
Bean	Bajoca de ferradura	11 443	8690	270
	Bajoca mantega	6825	5940	194
	Bajoca roget	11 452	8810	257
Chard	Bleda d'Esllida	2570	2101	276
Peanut	Cacau del collaret	30 376	28 709	237
Peanut squash	Carabassa de cacauet	6864	2432	174
Pumpkin	Carabassa xata de torrar	4201	2762	164
Zucchini	Carabasseta blanca	8981	3342	300
	Carabasseta d'Utiel	6409	2539	204
Onion	Ceba babosa	696	438	108
	Ceba de gra	56	54	20
	Ceba de mig gra	73	40	23
Cucumber	Cogombre curt de vinagre	2095	722	131
	Cogombre de la Nucia	3370	991	259
Cabbage	Col de Xàtiva	1006	530	155
Lettuce	Encisam "orella de burro"	591	132	162
	Encisam mantegós d'Ademús	1090	473	252
	Encisam meravella d'Espadà	713	325	220
	Encisam morat de Morella	1365	522	298
Broad bean	Fava de Bétera	63 876	58 061	321
Lima bean	Garrofé pintat	24 321	20 984	300
Melon	Meló blanc ratllat	2790	1027	179
	Meló tendral negre	1098	907	179
Watermelon	Meló d'Alger pipa roja	1539	699	79
	Meló d'Alger sang de bou	7162	3970	342
	Melona	3138	1161	138
Pea	Pésol de trencar	20 462	11 470	206
Snow pea	Pésol fi	26448	14 798	261
Pepper	Pimentó "del cuerno"	1104	604	315
	Pimentó 3-4 Morros	1032	589	288
	Pimentó nyora	1442	505	187
	Pimentó valencià	787	468	279
Radish	Rave roig	12 789	5914	363
Carrot	Safanòria morada	5272	4438	355
	Tomaca de pera	450	186	189
	Tomaca del pebre	612	348	314
	Tomaca Mutxamel	708	485	339
	Tomaca quarentena	849	441	235
	Tomaca rosada d'Altea	792	343	357
	Tomaca valenciana blanca	282	225	170
Tomaca valenciana masclat	750	364	263	
TOTAL		286 163	203 642	10 291

Production and transfer of seeds from the Valencian catalogue of traditional varieties from January 2018 to June 2023

Seed production and conservation

The seeds transferred to the users are produced in accordance with **organic production standards** in the cultivation fields of the Agricultural Experimental Stations and of the CIEF and are characterized and analysed following **international protocols (ISTA standards)**, as well as subjected to controls and treatments to prevent the presence of pests. To make possible the conservation of the varieties and the supply of seeds, **two collections of seeds** were created, an active one, kept at 4°C and used to make the transfers, and a base collection, kept at -18°C to ensure long-term conservation.



The seed transfer service

The **seed transfer service** was put into operation in 2018 and in its more than 4 years of operation, more than **10 000 batches of seeds** have been served to a **total of 971 "guardians" in the field**, of which **68 are professional farmers** who also have contributed to the dissemination of the characteristics of these varieties to consumers. When receiving the seeds, the receptor must sign a **transfer agreement**, committing himself to **collaborate in the conservation** of the requested varieties and not to carry out lucrative activities with the transferred seeds. These transfers of seeds are made **free of charge**, at the official **agricultural experimentation centres (Carcaixent, Vila-Real or Elche) and at the CIEF**.



The Valencian Catalogue of Traditional Varieties

The Catalogue, available on the website of the Department of Agriculture, was presented in 2018 with the description of **45 traditional cultivars** belonging to **21 different crops**. The Catalogue aspires to be **participatory, dynamic and with projection to the future**. In fact, in 2024 the inclusion of **7 additional varieties** is planned and the inclusion of other varieties in the future is continually being considered.

