

Tried & tested

Seed packet organisers



Consumer editor **Julia Heaton** finds out which organisers are best for keeping seed packets dry, neat and tidy

A WELL organised seed box is essential to get the growing season off to a flying start and ensure your seeds are all easily accessible in one place. Good storage should also allow you to keep seeds year to year without them getting wet or damaged. On trial this week are a variety of organisers, some even with little extras like storage envelopes. Read on to see which one came out top.

£19.95 p&p £4.95

BURGON AND BALL

burgonandball.com
(01142) 338262

BUILD ★★★★★

Powder-coated tin 11in (28cm) wide x 8in (20cm) deep x 6½in (16cm) high with separate lid. Four tin inserts – one splits the box width ways into two, and three smaller inserts split the bigger of the two compartments into four.

FEATURES ★★★★★

Comes with five brown paper seed packets that seal envelope-style and have blank boxes on the front for the name of your saved garden seed. Seed packets measure 3in x 2in (7.5 x 5cm). The box also includes a set of wooden pencils, and monthly dividers made from cardboard.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

Able to hold many seed packets, whatever their size. The seed envelopes held a good amount and the small wooden pencils were a helpful



£15.50

P&P £2.95

GARDEN GEAR

garden-gear.co.uk
(01476) 576541

BUILD ★★★★★

Powder-coated mild steel box divided into three equal compartments. Has a metal-hinged lid. Measurements are 9in (23cm) x 3¾in (9.5) x 5in (12.5 cm).

FEATURES ★★★★★

Includes 24 brown paper envelopes 4in x 2½in (10 x 6.5cm) for saving garden seeds, each with a designated area for writing seed names on. Also six metal plant labels, 4in (10cm) long and permanent white marker for writing on them.

PERFORMANCE ★★★

Looks great and is fairly air-tight. The packets were big enough to fit a large or small amount of seeds in and sealed envelope-style. But the



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extra. Its separate lid provided a good seal and didn't get in the way like some hinged types. The monthly dividers proved extremely useful for sorting seed into order of sowing dates.

VALUE ★★★★★

Can't be faulted – a useful and versatile gardener's accessory.

£20.00

UNDERCOVER

undercoveruk.com
(01493) 752045

BUILD ★★★★★

Handmade recycled leather box with attached lid and a button for closing. Box measures: 6½in (17cm) x 4¼in (11cm) x 4¼in (11cm).

FEATURES ★★★

Comes with a recycled card index for putting seed packets in alphabetical order. Choice of five colours

PERFORMANCE ★★

A classy look that would be at home on any shelf indoors. Good for average sized seed packets but not for peas and beans. When upright the index cards pushed the lid upwards. And, as it didn't fit tightly in the first place, the seeds might not stay dry if left in the shed.

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VALUE ★★

Nicely crafted but limited by the sizes of packets it will hold and its ill-fitting lid.

£55.00

NOT ON THE HIGH STREET

notonthehighstreet.com
0845 259 1359

BUILD ★★★★★

Powder-coated mild steel with metal-hinged lid/door and side ventilation. Measures 6in (15cm) deep x 8in (20cm) wide x 8in (20cm) high.

FEATURES ★★★

Pretty flower, fruit and veg illustrations. Can be hung on the wall with the included



fittings or popped on a shelf. There is a lip on the door/lid to make opening the box up easier.

PERFORMANCE ★★

Best used as a free standing box as many more seed packets could be fitted in this

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way. Unfortunately, when the box was hung on the wall these extra packets spilled onto the floor as the door was opened. The ventilation feature worked when the box was on a shelf in a dry room but the packets and seeds suffered when it was placed in a damp shed.

VALUE ★

Very expensive for what it is. If you're going to invest in one of these boxes make sure you keep it somewhere dry!

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compartments were only wide enough to take the seed packets provided. The labels had to be written on with pencil and chalk as the white marker seemed to have dried out and therefore couldn't be tested.

VALUE ★★★

A fantastic price for a good-looking seed box with packets for saving garden seeds. But it won't take different sized seed packets. Shame about the white marker pen too.

£29.95 P&P £4.95

HARROD HORTICULTURAL

harrodhorticultural.com
0845 402 5300

BUILD ★★★★★

A retro-style powder-coated steel box with separate lid and handles either side. Measures 5in (13cm) x 9½in (24cm) x 13in (33cm)

FEATURES ★★★

Comes with a small scoop, which hangs on the handle at the side of the box.

PERFORMANCE ★★★

A nice-sized, sturdy box that held many packets but, without compartments, they couldn't be organized further. The scoop supplied for the bulbs is especially good if you decide to store them in sand. However, beware of storing bulbs and seeds together – If the bulbs have rot this could

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affect the seeds too. Handles made the box easy to pick up and move and the lid provided a good seal.

VALUE ★★★

Slightly expensive compared to the others but a great size! One for those with lots of seeds to store who don't mind rummaging around for them.