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**CHEROKEE NATION**<sup>®</sup>  
P.O. Box 948 • Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948 • 918-453-5000 • [cherokee.org](http://cherokee.org)

**Office of the Chief**

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*Deputy Principal Chief*  
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**011912**

**RE: Cherokee Nation heirloom seeds**

## **My Fellow Cherokees:**

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the Cherokee Nation Seed Bank. Please note the accessions in our seed bank are rare cultivars and not widely commercially available. We are limited to the number of seeds we can provide to our citizens and are not always able to grant every request. 2011's record cold, snow, heat, and drought yielded mixed growing season results. This year the Nation's Natural Resource Department is pleased to announce the list of available species for 2012. As follows:

### **Corn (*Zea mays*):**

- Cherokee White Eagle – a dent corn
- Cherokee Flour – a large flour corn
  - Colored (multi-colored)
  - White
  - Yellow
- PopCorn – small plants that make real popcorn
  - Red
  - Green
  - Bronze
  - Colored (multi-colored)

### **Beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*)**

- Trail of Tears (a small jet black bean)

### **Squash (*Cucurbita maxima*)**

- Georgia Candy Roaster (a long storing squash that can be prepared as squash, Sweet Potatoes, or Pumpkin)

### **Gourds (*Lagenaria siceraria*)**

- Basket Gourds
- Dipper Gourds
- Jewel Gourds
- Buffalo Gourds

### **Trail of Tear Beads**

- “Job’s Tears” (*Coix lacrima*)

### **Tobacco**

- Native Tobacco (*Nicotiana rustica*) – ceremonial tobacco, not smoking tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*).

It is important to preserve these rare genetics, so if you receive seeds, please be mindful of the directions denoted in the planting guide supplied with the seeds. Any divergence from these instructions will result in hybridization and loss of the plants’ genetic integrity. Please note the Natural Resources Department would enjoy getting seeds back from you if you have a harvest surplus.

These seeds have been produced right here in the Cherokee Nation by trained staff and are made available to Cherokee Nation Citizens for cultural uses. This seed stock is not to be sold or offered for sale. If you would like to request seeds, please follow the following instructions:

Please email or fax your requests to:

[mark-dunham@cherokee.org](mailto:mark-dunham@cherokee.org)

[pgwin@cherokee.org](mailto:pgwin@cherokee.org)

Mark Dunham, pat Gwin (918) 458-7673

Seed recipients are limited to 2 varieties (only 1 variety of corn and gourds due to hybridization issues). Please include 1 or 2 alternates due to limited supplies of certain species.

Include a copy or scan of your Cherokee Nation Citizenship Card (“Blue Card”) with your request.

Please include proof of age with all requests for *Nicotiana rustica* (recipients must be 18 or older)

Please make sure you properly denote the address you wish seeds to be sent.

The Cherokee Nation appreciates your interest in this heirloom seed project. The propagation and cultivation of these rare plants is the only way to assure their genetic preservation and also serves to preserve a vital component of Cherokee history. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact my office. Thank you.

Pat Gwin

Mark Dunham

Natural Resources Department