

Question: Paper vs. Plastic – What’s in a Bag?

Hope Seeds switched from paper packets/envelopes to plastic/poly bags in 2001. We’ve continued to use polyethylene ziplock bags over the years after much consideration. The initial switch was made “after a long hard look at the options” (wrote Kim in the *Hope Seeds* catalogue that year).



If you think about the work and resources that go into producing a seed crop, it makes sense to store and protect those seeds as best we can, while they are en route, in the post or in retail stores, and in your homes and hands prior to planting. After seeds are adequately dry, poly bags work very well for maintaining seed viability in the short term (about 6-20 months – or typically the time frame in which you will be planting the seeds you’ve purchased). The poly bags also provide protection against moisture, insects, seed mixing and other damage; and they are reclosable and reusable.

Note: Metal cans and glass jars with sealable lids (stored in the dark) are the best containers for long-term storage (2+ years).

For more information on seed processing and storage see: https://carolinafarmstewards.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/SeedProcessingandStorageVer_1pt3.pdf