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Learn to grow “Edible Heirlooms” from author Bill Thorness

What was Thomas Jefferson's favorite lettuce? Which fabulous old tomato varieties do well in Olympia? Bill Thorness knows. The author of “Edible Heirlooms: Heritage Vegetables for the Maritime Garden,” Thorness will be at the [Olympia Timberland Library](#) on Friday, May 13 from 7 to 8:15 p.m. to share stories about the origins of many heirlooms growing in gardens today and discuss techniques for growing your own. He will also share heirloom seeds from his own garden and invites the audience to bring seeds to trade with one another.



Edible Heirlooms will be for sale at the program. The book provides information on species variety, growing tips, plant history and suggested uses of 26 edible heirloom plants suited to gardens in the maritime West. Chapters include instructions on how to save seeds and suggestions for starting a local seed exchange.

“An individual seed is so tiny—the pale, flat carrot, or the rough, rotund beet—that I think there's no way this will feed me. But there it is, the beginning,” Thorness wrote. He suggests that growing heirloom plants is the ultimate way to eat local.

Thorness is the author of [Biking Puget Sound](#) as well as a prolific gardening writer. His work has appeared in numerous magazines, newspapers and blogs. A vegetable gardener since the 1980s, Thorness is the editor of *Way to Grow*, the Seattle Tilth newsletter, and served as president of Seattle Tilth's board of directors. He lives with his wife in Seattle, Washington. His Web site is www.billthorness.com.

The Olympia Timberland Library is at 313 8th Avenue SE. For more information, contact the library at (360) 352-0595 or go to www.TRL.org.