

Role Scaffold — Head Gardener - Seeds — Uey Kai Garden, DCCG

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Status: Draft — to be confirmed with whoever holds the role.

Template: DCCG Role Scaffold Template.

Purpose of the Scaffold

The Head Gardener - Seeds looks after the garden's seed cycle. They save seed from this year's crops, return some to the community seed store, organise seed purchases, and work toward the Kūanga heritage seeds the application names as the long-term direction.

This is one of five Head Gardener roles. The Head Gardener - Seeds holds horticultural knowledge in their area and votes with the other four on garden-wide horticultural decisions (decision making scaffold).

Why This Matters

Without a Head Gardener - Seeds, the garden buys new seed every year and doesn't develop its own seed supply. With the role in place, seed-saving builds up over time. By year three, much of the garden's seed should come from last year's crops. The seed return norm sets the principle; the Head Gardener - Seeds puts it into practice.

Outcomes of the Scaffold

Poor Outcome. Seed isn't saved. Varieties drift. The shift toward Kūanga heritage seeds named in the application doesn't happen. Each year's planting starts with the same purchase as the last.

Expected Outcome. The Head Gardener - Seeds saves seed from the obvious crops. A small amount goes back to the community seed store. The amount returned is unspecified (seed return norm — "some", not a fixed portion).

Excellent Outcome. By year three, most of the garden's seed comes from saved seed. Newer gardeners have learned seed-saving alongside the Head Gardener - Seeds.

Planks of the Scaffold

1. Look after the seed cycle

Purpose of the Plank. Save seed from this year's crops. Dry, label, store. Return some to the community seed store. Buy only what can't be saved or shared.

Why This Matters. A garden that buys seed every year depends on outside supply. A garden that saves its own seed doesn't.

Poor Outcome. Seed-saving happens only when someone remembers. Most crops get harvested or composted before going to seed.

Expected Outcome. Seed-saving happens for the obvious crops (courgette, pumpkin, beans, lettuce, tomato, brassicas that go to seed). Storage stays dry and labelled.

Excellent Outcome. Seed-saving is part of the planting plan. Some plants are deliberately left to go to seed. The Head Gardener - Seeds keeps a notebook of which seed is from which year, accessible to the working group.

2. Teach what you know

Purpose of the Plank. Seed-saving is a skill that passes by showing, not by writing it down. The Head Gardener - Seeds teaches alongside the work, not in scheduled sessions.

Why This Matters. If the Head Gardener - Seeds never teaches, the practice depends on them being there. Teaching keeps the practice going when they aren't.

Poor Outcome. The Head Gardener - Seeds saves seed alone. Knowledge stays with them.

Expected Outcome. Whoever's around when seed is being saved gets shown. Light, ordinary teaching.

Excellent Outcome. Other gardeners are saving seed themselves within a year or two.

3. Don't track who gave or took seed

Purpose of the Plank. seed return norm says seed that goes back isn't repayment — it's the cycle continuing. The Head Gardener - Seeds holds this when someone in the community starts treating seed-sharing as a transaction.

Why This Matters. Treating seed as a loan introduces debt into a system designed to avoid it. The Head Gardener - Seeds is the person most likely to encounter the loan framing first.

Poor Outcome. Seed gets tracked by who-gave-what. A small register forms. memorylessness as feature is breached.

Expected Outcome. Seed moves through the community without a register. "Seeds go round" is the answer when someone asks who's counting.

Excellent Outcome. The community treats seed sharing as ordinary flow. No one asks who gave what.

4. Hold the role as a tender, not an operator

Purpose of the Plank. non operator norm applies. The Seed Keeper holds horticultural knowledge in this specialisation. They don't run the seed side of the garden by personal authority. Major decisions about what to grow and save go through the Head Gardener vote and the working group.

Why This Matters. A Head Gardener - Seeds who quietly decides everything seed-related has become the operator the architecture avoids. Naming this Plank protects the position.

Poor Outcome. "Ask the Head Gardener - Seeds" becomes the answer to every seed question.

Expected Outcome. Seed questions go to the working group. The Head Gardener - Seeds voices horticultural judgement into the discussion. Cross-cutting decisions go to the Head Gardener vote.

Excellent Outcome. A new Head Gardener - Seeds could take over next year and the practice would continue.

Values

Three values: **following the seasons** (seed moves on the land's time); **teaching as you work** (the skill passes by showing); and **no debt frame** (seeds go round; no one is counting).

See also: governance, decision making scaffold, horticultural scaffold template, volunteer, seed return norm, non operator norm, memorylessness as feature, pattern disruption norm.