

SEED STORAGE

Holding seed at 40F (5C) will prolong the shelf life of the seed. This is especially important for any primed seed where shelf life declines rapidly at high temperatures.

When selecting your seed storage facility there are three incremental levels

- ❖ Good – common household refrigerator
- ❖ Better – reach in cooler (beverage cooler) with household dehumidifier
- ❖ Best – walk in cold room with a 'plate dehumidifier' that holds constant 40F and <25% RH

The problem with a household refrigerator is that every time the door is opened the temperature is subject to change rapidly which can affect the seed. With the rapidly changing temperatures you will also see oscillating RH which will decrease shelf life of the seed.

A reach in cooler like the one to the right, will allow you to view the seed and limit the temperature swings when the door is open. Placing a dehumidifier in the chamber will also help keep the RH below 50%. Note that this refrigerator can be easily used to also stage seed for the seeders to limit how often the door is opened. When used in conjunction with a walk-in cooler, you can maintain more constant temperature control in the walk in by limiting the time the door is open.



A walk-in cold room should also have a desiccant dehumidifier (munters.com) to maintain the optimum low RH for seed storage. A household dehumidifier will only reduce the RH to around 35% and normally does not function well at the ideal storage temperature of 40F (5C). to achieve the desired 20-25% RH, you need to use a desiccant dehumidifier.