The Tobacco Seed Company is Europe’s first dedicated producer & re-tailer of tobacco seeds for individuals who wish to grow their own smoke.

Supplying over 80 countries worldwide since 1999, you can be sure of buying only the best tobacco seeds money can buy, when you shop at the Tobacco Seed Company.

There are many types of tobacco seed for you to choose from. Please visit our website, where you can download our tobacco seed catalogue.

As we operate exclusively through the Internet, we are unable to accept telephone calls or traditional mail.
CURING TOBACCO

Much is said about the complexities of curing tobacco, to make its smell, taste and appearance resemble what we are accustomed to smoking today.

Curing put simply means drying the leaf slowly, with regard to the colour of the leaf by controlling humidity and temperature.

Uncured tobacco, though smokable will have a harsher and a herbal type smell, which is not very pleasant

HARVESTING

Leaves are generally ready to pick soon after the flowers form into seed pods. This can take up to 4-6 weeks after flowers first appear. Most often, the flowers are removed from the plant to focus the plants energy onto the leaves rather than on seed production.

A leaf is mature and ready for picking as it starts to discolour and before it drops off the plant altogether. The leaf begin to turn partially yellow. Do not pick rich green leaves.

Leaves on the lower part of the plant mature first, while the leaves at the top are generally lush green. Each leaf has its own harvest day, so the entire plant is not generally cut and hung to dry at one time. Instead remove leaves from the bottom and work your way up the plant on a weekly basis.

COLOURING

Once a leaf has been removed from the plant, its chemical properties continue to change. If allowed to dry too quickly, these uncured properties will be captured. If allowed to cure before being dried, the chemical properties will have changed and the resulting smell and flavour of the tobacco will be much improved.

This chemical metamorphosis takes place during what is called the colouring stage.

Hang the mature leaves in a hot, humid place (that is a specially made chamber or you can use a greenhouse in summer) and wait from 5-10 days for the leaves to turn towards yellow. Typical temperatures during this stage should be about 100° degrees Fahrenheit, rising very gradually to 150° degrees at the end of the process.

Make sure there is no water forming on the leaves during this time as this is a sign of too much humidity and / or too little ventilation. Conversely, if too little humidity, the leaves will dry up and the leaves will not cured properly. Hot air should be allowed to circulate freely among the leaves.

Yellowing colour indicates that essential chemical processes have taken place.

DRIING

Once the leaves have changed colour, the tobacco is now ready to be dried. To do this, increase the temperature further to as high as 150° degrees Fahrenheit, allowing air to move freely around the leaves.

When fully dry, the leaves will be brittle and will break on contact and will be ready for storage.

If you wish to smoke the tobacco at this stage, simply hang the tobacco in a warm humid place until the leaves become supple again.

STORING AND AGEING

If you do not intend to smoke the tobacco straightaway, you will want to store it in its dry state.

Tobacco can mature and mellow with age in the same way as wine, providing it is stored in a dry, dark place. Put the leaves into airtight containers but check on them from time to time in case of moisture is present. This should be removed.

Manufactured cigarette tobacco is said to be as old as ten years, so the longer you leave it, then nicer it should taste.

Further information is available at http://www.tobaccoseed.co.uk/Useful_Links.html

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