

# THE PERFECT SEED ENVELOPE

by Edith Bettinger

Recycle your 8½ x 11 sheets of paper that have a blank side to create seed containers that can be opened repeatedly, closed securely, and stored conveniently.

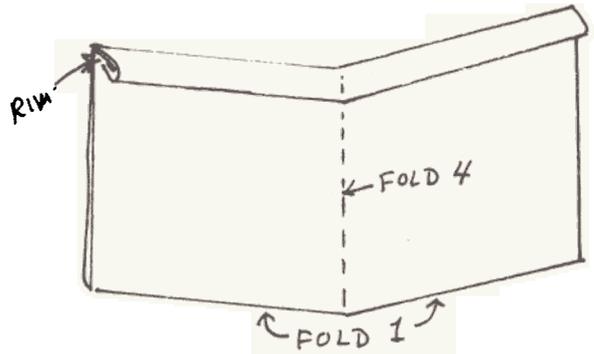
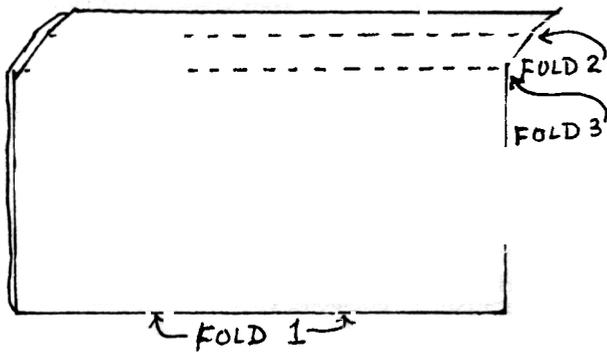
The late Carroll Abbott, pioneer native plant grower and founder of the Native Plant Society of Texas, stopped to rest by a stream while on a seed-collecting hike. He folded a paper cup so he could get a drink. He discovered that with two more folds he had an

envelope which could be opened and closed, and from which the finest seed could not escape. Instructions for making this useful envelope are given below. This is easier than it looks.

Keeping these envelopes handy will enhance your chances of collecting and saving valuable seed. For larger seeds or larger quantities, use grocery sacks (with a rock in the bottom so you can set it down without its blowing over).

Before you place seed in the en-

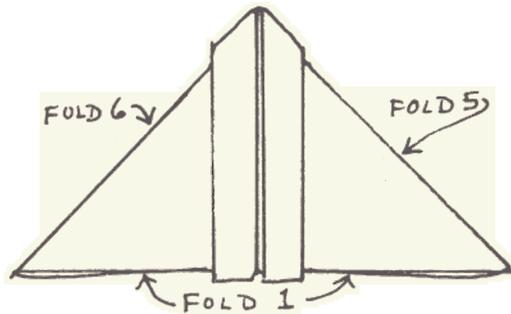
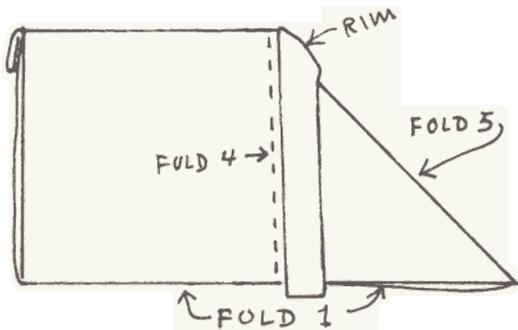
velope, write identification, date, and location on the flat surface. Transfer seed from the envelope to an open dish as soon as possible to complete hulling and to eliminate varmints. Allow seed to dry thoroughly in a cool, airy place. The envelope can remain with the seed as a label. If seed are to be stored, return them to the envelope. Groups of these can be rubber-banded together and stored in a paper bag in the refrigerator or elsewhere.



**Folds: Instructions:**

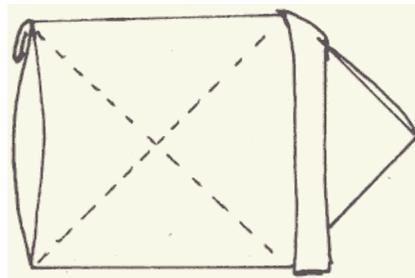
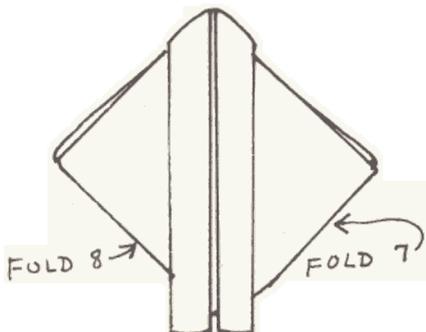
1,2,3: Fold paper in half (8½ x 5½), then fold the edges toward you about 5/8 inch, forming a "rim".

4: Make a vertical crease by folding paper in half with rim outward, then reopening.



Turn paper over with rim underneath and at top. Fold upper corners down to center so that rim edges meet at

vertical crease. (Flatten each fold as you make it, especially corners.)



Complete the envelope by folding bottom corners up and tucking

under rim. To open envelope, reverse Fold 8, then Fold 6.