

THE STORY OF MR. WARNER'S POPCORN

In the middle of the last century, our former neighbor, Mr. Richard Warner, (for whom Warner House is named) was known as “the Popcorn Prince of South Amherst”. Even though his farm is now the grassy entrance to Hampshire College, his famous glossy red variety of popcorn, which he carefully selected and grew himself, is still grown here at the Hampshire Farm.

A few red kernels showed up unexpectedly one year in his usual harvest of “white rice” popcorn. By saving and planting these odd red kernels, he began to select his own variety, gradually over the years increasing the proportion of red kernels in each ear of corn, until he was growing ears that were entirely red.

Much later, in 1998, when a student interviewed Mr. Warner (long-since retired) for a paper on seed saving, he gave her what seed he still had left. The Hampshire Farm CSA manager planted the seed and, even though it was four years old, it grew! Thanks to this series of seed saving efforts, we are now able to grow this wonderful heritage popcorn for the Hampshire College CSA.

WHAT TO DO WITH AN EAR OF POPCORN:

Just push the dried kernels off the cob with your thumb and pop as you would any store-bought popcorn.

