

Winter Gardening Newsletter

by Linda Gilkeson

November 22, 2012

Leaves, a question and upcoming events

Well, it's wet! I hope you have a stockpile of mulch materials so that you can beef up any layers that have matted down in all this rain. When there is a forecast of really cold, freezing weather I will be putting a final layer of deep leaves right over the tops of the leaves of carrots and other roots to insulate the bed and fluffing a deep layer around the necks of leeks, cabbage, etc. Right now, catching cutworms chewing in the hearts of Chinese cabbage and rounding up slugs are priorities in my garden.

For Salt Spring gardeners: If you are short on leaves (or want to get rid of leaves), this Saturday, Nov. 24th, is an opportunity not to be missed. Come to Rainbow Road Park, behind the swimming pool, between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. You can also bring tree prunings and branches suitable for chipping. Material must be clean, no invasive species and no stones, plastic or garbage. Branches drop off is by donation (\$5 suggested for a pick up load), to help cover costs of chipping. Chips are available for pickup. Leaf exchange is free!

A question for readers: I would appreciate hearing from you if you would like to weigh in with an opinion on the following: I am close to going to the printer with the NEW and expanded second edition of my 'bug book': *West Coast Gardening: Natural Insect, Weed & Disease Control*. This new edition will be printed here on Salt Spring and I have a choice of binding styles.

I want to know whether you readers prefer a coil binding or a normal paperback spine (as was on the previous edition). Many people have mentioned that they like the coil binding on my *Year Around Harvest* winter gardening book, which is why I wonder if the bug book should also be coil bound. Cost isn't a factor as there is very little difference in cost per copy for each type of binding.

Upcoming Events:

Year Round Harvest 2013: There is still space for more participants in my 10-month organic gardening course held at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific. The classes are on a Sunday afternoon, once a month over the season. For dates, cost and to register, see: <http://hcp.ca/commed-year-round-harvest/>

Saturday, January 26, 2013: **Mixing it Up in the Urban Garden 2013** event, sponsored by the Victoria Master Gardeners. Everyone is welcome to a day of learning about soils, seeds, bugs, fruit trees and edible landscaping. I will be giving a talk on "Good Bugs, Bad Bugs"; there will be a feature talk by Rosalind Creasy on "Edible Landscaping" as well as vendors & silent auction. 8:30–4:30 pm, Mary Winspear Center. Sidney, B.C. \$65. Registration includes lunch and snack breaks. For more info and to register: www.mgabc.org/content/victoria

For info on my books or to check my 2012 & 2013 schedule for talks, workshops and gardening classes in your area see: www.lindagilkeson.ca

You can read all of my previous messages on the Salt Spring Energy Strategy website: www.saltspringenergystrategy.org