

Gardening Newsletter

by Linda Gilkeson
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Links for Gardening Help

With my next message I will resume my usual gardening content, but for now, here is a roundup of information I have been sent on local gardening mentors, Facebook groups and projects to help new gardeners in the region:

Victoria Area:

Victoria Master Gardeners are offering virtual garden mentoring, over the phone, by email, text. Their trained volunteers are ready to mentor new and seasoned gardeners to help you get started on your vegetable garden or answer gardening questions. Contact them at info@msvmga.org

Collaborative Gardening for Food Security (Victoria/Lekwungen+WSÁNEĆ) is a large Facebook group in Victoria about growing food <https://www.facebook.com/groups/645916832912552/> It is open to members from nearby communities also.

Paul has started a question and answer Facebook page for new gardeners to connect with mentors and masters <https://www.facebook.com/groups/665540974276715>

Lisa at victoriagardenersmentorship@gmail.com is working on a program that matches novice gardeners with experienced gardeners. People can sign up by filling out this form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfgUKDC3Ia7MH6bhDdOcmLzT96k-fhSMcYJMM7j5u39zenCSQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&fbclid=IwAR2K1_wYWZholSieovdT2cAVKCJI25CG5Y9gajo9PUdab8g04zh6OvyNqic

Salt Spring Island:

Salt Spring Garden Mentors pairs a new gardener with an experienced gardener for the season. If you are new to food gardening or an experienced gardener who could advise a new gardener, contact: Marian Hargrove momhargrove@yahoo.com 250-537-0864

Comox Valley:

The Lush Valley Food Action Society <https://lushvalley.org/> has set up a resources list for new gardeners on Facebook: "Grow Food Everywhere, Garden Support During the Covid Pandemic" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/growfoodeverywhere/> They are looking into setting up a mentorship program so sign up for their news.

Lower Mainland:

Vancouver Master Gardeners continue to offer gardening help: Email your question to plantinfo@bcmastergardeners.org or call their Plant Information Line at 604-257-8662 You may leave a message at any time and a Master Gardener will contact you. On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vancouvermastergardeners/>

The Little Mountain Neighbourhood House and Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC) are working on a gardening extension project that will include one-on-one mentorship opportunities for

beginner gardeners, focused on the Riley Park neighbourhood in Vancouver. Stay tuned for details when their program is up and running.

Online Vegetable Gardening Courses:

With thanks to the sponsoring organizations I have made my *Year Round Harvest* gardening course slides free to the public. On my web site: <http://www.lindagilkeson.ca/index.html> go to 'Course Login' on the menu.

Use password: **honeycrisp** to see monthly presentations from the 10-month Year Round Harvest course (a new module will be put up each month until October)

Use password: **mgbasic** to see a 2-part set of slides for a vegetable growing workshop prepared for BC Master Gardeners.

Also, from my home page you can print a planting chart that shows when to sow seeds for crops that are harvested all winter. Put the chart on your fridge to remind you when to sow various crops over the summer.

Oregon State University Master Gardeners offers online gardening courses and until the end of April their vegetable gardening course is free to the public:

<https://workspace.oregonstate.edu/course/master-gardener-series-vegetable-gardening?hsLang=en>