

Welcome Gardens! Newsletter

March 19th/2017

LATEST NEWS!

Spring is Here...so Let's Get Growing! Join us on Friday, **March 24th** to learn about growing veggies, herbs and garlic in containers / how to plant seedlings and some ways to keep them warm!



Friday, March 24th. Time: 12:30 - 2:00 pm at VIRCS, 3rd Floor, 637 Bay St

The next Welcome Gardens! session will cover topics to get us growing in our garden and in containers! And a couple of our experienced growers have generously offered to help you with your growing and garden questions! And a new Welcome Gardens! member, Harriet Stanford will share her knowledge and experience growing garlic in containers!

We will have 2 sizes of containers (2 per participant) , potting soil, seeds and garlic bulbs, seedlings (a selection of what is in stores this week) as well as plastic cover and bamboo sticks to make cloches or mini-greenhouses!

No garden space? Not problem. Growing veggies in containers is possible.

Even if you don't have much sunny ground, you can still growing your own tomatoes and other crops. All you need is a generous-size container, good potting soil, and a suitable spot — a patio, deck, or corner that gets at least six hours of full sun a day.



- containers can help you overcome problems like poorly drained soil, pests such as gophers, and soil-borne diseases.
- since soil in pots warms up more quickly in spring than it does in the ground, you can get a tomato or pepper off to a faster start.
- tall pots make it easier for gardeners with limited mobility to tend crops without kneeling or squatting.
- Vegetables in containers add visual punch to the landscape. Choose large, decorative containers and surround them with smaller pots of colorful flowers, and you can have an attractive garden and a bounty of vegetables all summer long.

Garden activities happening in Victoria this week!

Agricultural Planning: From Balcony to Back 40

When: Saturday March 25

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Where: Compost Education Centre. 1216 North Park Street Victoria, BC V8T 1C9

How much food (and land) would it take to feed me? my family? every one?...

Fee: \$ 20 registration is required. You can register for workshops through our [Eventbrite](#) page, by calling the Centre at 250-386-9676, or by emailing us at office@compost.bc.ca

Creative Café: Bringing cultures and generations together

When: Friday, March 31st

Time: 12:00 to 3:00 pm

Where: Cook Street Village Activity Centre, 380 Cook Street

Join us for a fun afternoon filled with arts and stimulating conversations. Bring your creativity and ideas to share!

Growing Native Plants From Seed

When: Tuesday, April 4

Time: 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Where: Central Branch, Greater Victoria Public Library.

Organized Victoria Seed Library. Learn how to identify, collect and propagate native species from seed, and take some home. Register at gvpl.ca

Do you have recipes or stories? Please share with us welcomegardens@vircs.bc.ca

For more information about times and topics, please visit VIRCS event calendar at www.vircs.bc.ca or Welcome Gardens facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/vircswelcomegardens/>

Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society- VIRCS