

# Welcome Gardens! Newsletter

February 20th/2017

## LATEST NEWS!

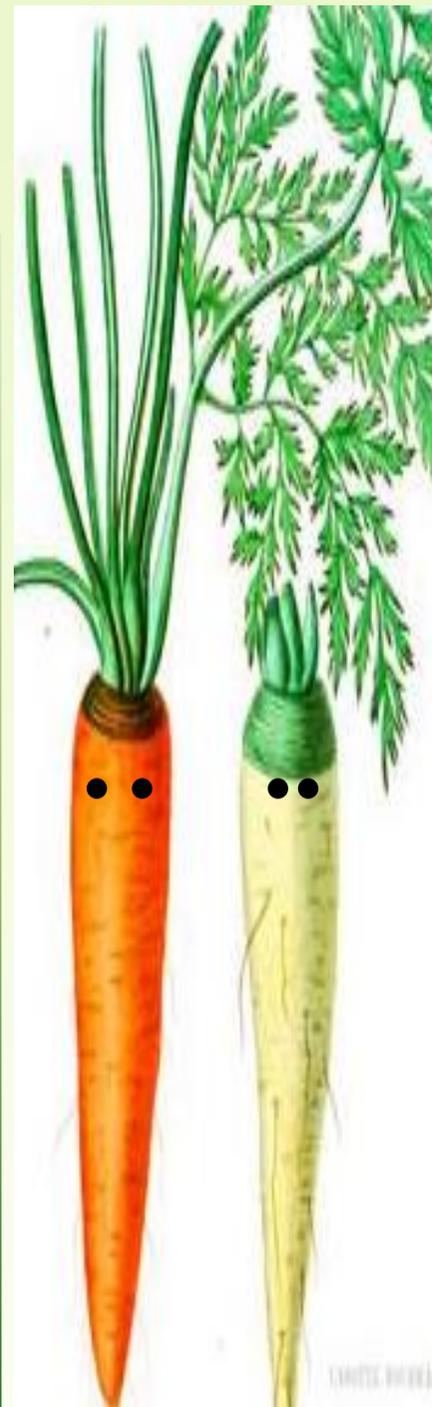
The weather is warming up and some flowers are starting to bloom! This means lots of garden activities ahead!

Join us this Thursday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> for our workshop:  
“Garden Planning + Cold Frame and Green House Growing + Pruning Tips!”

**Time:** 12:30 - 2:00 pm

**Place:** VIRCS, 3rd Floor 637 Bay Street

All levels of experience and skills welcome!



### Getting ready for the spring: early spring gardening tips

**Clear drainage ditches:** Leaves and debris gather in drainage areas over the winter. Now is the time to ensure that the spring rains will have adequate runoff. Spring seedlings do best in soil which drains well.

**Repair any bowed sides to raised beds:** Fix trellises and fencing. Soggy winter soil puts a strain on raised beds. Any leaning sides should be fixed now.

**Weed young spring weeds:** Any weeds which appear in your garden beds will be easiest to pull now, as the roots are shallow. Covering bare spots with mulch or ground cover will minimize the emergence of new weeds. Black plastic sheeting can also be used to cover the beds before planting as a way to suppress emerging weeds.

**When it's dry enough add compost:** Build up your soil.

**Plant early spring vegetables when soil is workable & weather appropriate:** Soil is ready for gardening once it is free of ice crystals and crumbles easily. Soil that is too wet is easily compacted, reducing beneficial soil aeration. Mulch early bulbs to avoid frost damage.

**Protect seedlings from hard frosts:** Early spring plantings are vulnerable to frost which can set in overnight. If you expect a hard frost, cover seedlings overnight with anything you have on hand - an overturned bucket or cardboard box or a cold frame.

### Other garden activities happening in Victoria this week

**Free pruning demonstration workshop** (all fruit) with BC fruit Testers.

**When:** Saturday Feb 25  
Association [www.bcfta.ca](http://www.bcfta.ca)

**Time:** from 10 - 12 pm.

**Where:** Royal Roads Orchard (see this link for instructions to get there <http://bcfta.ca/map-royalroads.html>)

**The Victoria Tool Library is now open**

**Dates:** Saturdays, 10 - 2 pm **Where:** 858 Devonshire Road, Victoria.

Do you need tools? Check out this cool project

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=26&v=oK7jyoNPi6c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=26&v=oK7jyoNPi6c)

To see the library online on their website [www.victoriatoollibrary.org](http://www.victoriatoollibrary.org)  
Annual membership \$50 - \$100 a year (sliding scale and people can talk to them if cost is a barrier).

**Capital Region Beekeepers' Association** [www.capitalregionbeekeepers.ca](http://www.capitalregionbeekeepers.ca) holds their meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Gordon Head United Church, 4201 Tyndall Avenue. Beggineers session 6:30 pm and general session 7:00 pm. Annual membership cost is \$35 which includes 10 educational workshops and access to honey extractor.

**Do you have recipes or stories? Please share with us** [welcomegardens@vircs.bc.ca](mailto:welcomegardens@vircs.bc.ca)

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

**Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society- VIRCS**