

# Winter Gardening Newsletter

by Linda Gilkeson

**February 1, 2011**

## Seeds and Seedy Saturdays

Attending my local Seedy Saturday always seems like me the real beginning of spring. That, and starting my leeks, sweet onions and celeriac seedlings indoors in mid-February.

Which reminds me of something to do right now: Check germination of old seeds. I check on onions and corn older than 2 years, other seeds older than 4 or 5 years. Just count out 5, 10 or 20 seeds, depending on how many you have left. Fold them into a moist paper towel. Put the towel in a loosely closed plastic bag or container to keep the paper moist and check daily. In a few days, the tiny white tip of a root will start to poke out of the viable seeds. Count the sprouted vs. non-sprouted seeds and figure out the percentage germination. It is a good idea to buy new seeds if germinations falls below 50% or make a note to save a new batch of seeds this year.

Here are the local Seedy Saturday (and one Sunday) in this region. For more dates in BC, see the Seeds of Diversity web site: <http://www.seeds.ca/ev/events.php> I am honoured to be speaking at the Qualicum Beach, Salt Spring, Victoria and Courtenay events this year.

**Feb. 5: Qualicum Beach**, Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 10:00-3:30

<http://www.qbseedysaturday.com>

**Feb. 11-13: Salt Spring's Seedy Weekend:** All events below at the Farmer's Institute, Rainbow Road.

Contact: [ssiseedysaturday@gmail.com](mailto:ssiseedysaturday@gmail.com)

Friday Film Nite: 6:30 *The World According to Monsanto*. 8:45 *Tableland*, featuring Salt Spring Island farmers

Seedy Saturday: 10:00 to 3:00. Admission \$4 (kids free). A full hall of seeds, plants, food vendors & presentations by: Linda Gilkeson, Paul Linton and Owen Bridge.

Seedy Sunday. Free admission. 9:30 - 12:30: Let's Grow More Food garden networking sessions to find land and people to grow with in our community. 1:30 - 3:00 Save-a-Seed for Salt Spring: A crash course in learning how to save seeds by the SS Seed Sanctuary. SSSS Annual General Meeting 3:30

**Feb. 19 Victoria, BC.** Victoria Conference Centre. 10:00-4:00. Admission \$7; under 12 free.

<http://www.jamesbaymarket.com/seedysaturday/seedysaturday.htm>

**Feb. 26**

**Vancouver:** VanDusen Botanical Garden 10:00-4:00. Contact: [NTL234@telus.net](mailto:NTL234@telus.net)

**Sooke:** Sooke Community Hall 10-3:00. Contact: [jessicaboquist@gmail.com](mailto:jessicaboquist@gmail.com)

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### **Mar. 5**

**Courtenay:** Filberg Centre. 10:00-3:00 <http://www.comoxvalleygrowersandseedsavers.ca>

**North Shore Vancouver:** John Braithwaite Community Centre in the Anchor Room, 145 West 1st Street 1:00-5:00 <http://www.ediblegardenproject.com/whats-growing-on/events-calendar/>

**Richmond:** Terra Nova Park Barn 10:00-12:00 Contact: [a\\_rallings@hotmail.com](mailto:a_rallings@hotmail.com)

**Mar. 6 (Sunday) Nanaimo:** Bowen Park Auditorium 10:00-3:00 Admission \$3. Contact: [seedysunday@shaw.ca](mailto:seedysunday@shaw.ca)

### **Mar. 12**

**Powell River:** Arbutus Room, Recreation Complex 10:00-3:00 Contact: [kevin.wilson100@shaw.ca](mailto:kevin.wilson100@shaw.ca)

**Cobble Hill:** Cobble Hill Hall. Free. Contact: [cobblehillseedysaturday@gmail.com](mailto:cobblehillseedysaturday@gmail.com)

**Mar. 26 Duncan:** Mercury Theatre 10:00-3:00. Contact: [tessas@cowichangreencommunity.org](mailto:tessas@cowichangreencommunity.org)

**Apr. 2 Surrey:** Stewart Farm, 13723 Crescent Rd. 11:00-3:00. Contact: [Impanko@surrey.ca](mailto:Impanko@surrey.ca)

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For info on my books or to check my 2011 schedule for talks and presentations in your area see: [www.lindagilkeson.ca](http://www.lindagilkeson.ca)

You can read all of my previous messages on the Salt Spring Energy Strategy website: [www.saltspringenergystrategy.org](http://www.saltspringenergystrategy.org)