

# Gardening Newsletter

by Linda Gilkeson

July 8, 2022

## Sources of winter veggie starts

As promised last month, here is a list of local sources for winter vegetable starts in the Salt Spring, Victoria, Saanich Peninsula and Brackendale areas. Most grow their starts organically.

Chorus Frog Farm, 263 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring [until July 31, then re-locating to Quarry Farm on Jasper Rd.]

Russell Nursery, 1370 Wain Rd, North Saanich, BC. [near Sidney] (250) 656-0384

<https://russellnursery.com/>

Victoria Compost Education Centre, 1216 N Park St, Victoria has an annual sale of organically grown winter veggie starts: Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am (250) 386 9676 <https://compost.bc.ca/>

Saanich Organics, 7900 West Saanich Rd (Three Oaks Farm of Saanich Organics). 9am to 7pm. Plants on the farmstand for month of August. [rachel@saanichorganics.com](mailto:rachel@saanichorganics.com)

Michell Valley Plants, 2451 Island View Road, Saanichton, behind the Michell Farm stand <https://michell-valley-plants.business.site/> (250) 886-0494

Local Roots Farm Market, 41015 Government Rd North Entrance, Brackendale <https://localrootsbc.ca/>

Nanaimo Community Gardens Society greenhouse - Beban Learning Garden in Beban Park, Nanaimo. [greenhouse@nanaimocommunitygardens.ca](mailto:greenhouse@nanaimocommunitygardens.ca) 250-816-4769

The above sources are ones that I know of or that other gardeners have told me about, but many garden centres also bring in late season veggie starts. Often, however, garden centres buy from wholesalers that are not well informed about the best varieties for winter culture in this region. While most varieties of kale, chard, spinach, cabbage, purple sprouting broccoli should do well, if you are looking for overwintering cauliflower, look for one these varieties: Purple Cape, Galleon, Prestige, Walcheren. Any other cauliflowers, such as Snowcrown, Snowball, Amazing, etc. are not winter hardy and in the fall may only produce a button head (if they do anything at all). There are excellent winter hardy lettuce varieties but not many: Look for Arctic King, Rouge d'Hiver, Continuity, Winter Density or other varieties explicitly described as frost hardy.

More on jammed up planting schedules: With so many crops weeks behind this year, you may be having trouble finding space to plant winter veggie starts this month. Garlic in my garden, for example, looks like it will mature 3 weeks later than usual, the same with onions grown from sets. Both of these large beds are ones I rely on planting in mid-July with winter crops. I am planting out all of my winter broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage in the one bed I do have open. They will be spaced well apart, but there will be twice the number of plants in the bed than there should be. When my garlic and onion beds are finally free, I will dig every other winter plant and transplant them into the open space. You can also buy time by moving starts into larger pots and holding them for a couple of more weeks, while waiting for early peas, Chinese cabbage, salad greens to be finished.