

# Winter Gardening Newsletter

by Linda Gilkeson

**August 16, 2009**

## **Seeding salads; Veggie starts are in at Foxglove**

From now to the end of the month is an ideal planting window for seeding winter lettuces and other fast growing greens: arugula, cresses, spinach, also cilantro (if you don't have it self-sowing). I always plant my favorite mid-winter salad green, corn salad, in the last week of August. Corn salad grows fast enough that it can be sown into early September and it is cold hardy enough to keep growing when it gets colder. It is shallow rooted so does very well seeded in and around other plants; I broadcast seeds under winter squash vines and other summer plants that will be gone by October. For more on the growing corn salad, check out my **Aug. 18, 2008** message in the archives on the Salt Spring Energy Strategy web site: [www.saltspringenergystrategy.org](http://www.saltspringenergystrategy.org).

**For Salt Spring gardeners:** Foxglove nursery now has a good selection of well-grown winter vegetable transplants for sale, including lettuce, purple sprouting broccoli, Redbor kale, Bright Lights chards and many other tried and true winter vegetables for our climate. This is your chance to catch up if you missed seeding some of these plants earlier. The summer is trickling away so try to get the transplants into the ground as soon as you can to take advantage of the warm spell predicted for the rest of this week. Foxglove also has a fresh batch of seeds in from West Coast Seed so look for winter lettuce varieties (such as Winter Density, Rouge d'hiver, Continuity), corn salad and other greens.

**Tomato Blight?** Sadly, some gardeners are seeing 'blighted' tomatoes--with brown, water-soaked leaf edges and wilting plants. Might be early blight or late blight--I am not sure yet. But this is a warning to be vigilant about keeping the foliage of your tomato plants dry. We had a long enough period of moisture in the last week to allow the fungi that cause these and other plant diseases to germinate.

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For those of you inquiring about buying my books, there is ordering information posted on my web site: [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)