

## **News Release for Driftwood, Jan. 30**

### **Winter Gardening Workshop Series**

Have you ever wondered how people produce those amazing cauliflower in March or how to grow your own salad greens throughout the cold winter months? Organizers are excited about this series which provides practical information for successful winter gardening. Growing winter vegetables is fun, provides increased food security, and reduces Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

Unless we grow our own, or purchase locally grown organic food, about 30% of our individual GHG emissions comes from the energy used to produce the food we eat. This amounts to a whopping 1,500 litres of gasoline a year, or 4 litres a day. Why so much energy? Energy is used by conventional agribusiness at every step of food production-- to manufacture fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, for tillage and harvesting, for processing and packaging, and for transportation. We then drive to stores to purchase, then refrigerate, and cook the food. The further food travels, the greater the amount of energy used. Thus even organic food can be bad for the environment if it has been shipped great distances.

Salt Springers live in a hospitable climate where year round gardening is possible, indeed delightful. At Seedy Saturday on Feb. 10 a workshop series will be launched on winter gardening with presentations from authorities in their fields. Workshops will be followed by garden tours. This series will be attractive to a wide variety of gardeners from total beginners to seasoned gardeners. Sessions include:

Feb. 10, 1-2:30 Introduction to Winter Gardening with Linda Gilkeson, at the Farmers' Institute

April 15, 1-4 Perennial Food in Your Ornamental Garden with Brandon Bauer

June 3, 1-3 Preparing to plant winter vegetables with Linda Gilkeson

August 26, 10:30-12:00 Seed Saving and Squash Curing including a tour of Salt Spring Centre garden with Dan Jason

August 26, 1-4pm Building Cloches and Covers for Winter Gardens with Brandon Bauer, Salt Spring Centre

To register: [marionpape@telus.net](mailto:marionpape@telus.net) or 537-4567 or at the door \$5.00.

This is the first in a series of articles in Greenspace being sponsored by the Salt Spring Energy Strategy Task Force. Funding for the Salt Spring Community Energy Strategy comes from Environment Canada, Islands Trust, and CRD.