

Dear Victoria Seed Library Members,

With spring beginning its grand unveiling, we are busy preparing for another season of seed sharing. Covid cancelled our season last year, but we're returned with enthusiasm for growth.

Below you will find information about what the Victoria Seed Library is doing this Spring.

SEED SWAPS

Due to Covid 19, we have made some changes to our seed sign out procedure to ensure everyone's safety.

Members are encouraged to sign seeds out in one of two ways:

1) Pre Packed Seed Kits

For folks who are not super picky about what variety they get from us, we will assemble themed seed packs, with 4-6 varieties of seed for you to grow.

These will be available for pick up during our seed swap tables (see seed swap schedule below).

Seed packs *will* include: a lettuce, a bean, a pea and an herb (except wildlife focus).

- Beginner (some of the easiest seeds to grow and save in our collection)
- Container gardener (stuff from our collection best suited to containers)
- Early planter (for people keen to get planting in March)
- Mid season planter (for folks who are starting to plant in mid-April)
- Late planter (for those who start in May or later)
- Wildlife focus (for people who primarily want to grow indigenous plants and bee forage)

2) Pre Order Your Seeds

You can peruse our catalogue of seed available and select up to six varieties that you would like to try to grow this year. Send us an email with the varieties you would like, and we will package them up for you and let you know when they will be available for pick up at our seed swap table.

Email: vicseedlibrary@lifecyclesproject.ca

Seed Swap Schedule

Outside the Central Library Branch (735 Broughton St)
Every second Saturday from 12-2

February 27
March 13, 27
Apr 10, 24
May 8, 22

All members must come in person to pick up seeds. Covid safety protocols and equipment will be in place to keep all safe. Please wear a mask.

Our **2021 Catalogue** is available online at www.lifecyclesproject.ca/seed-library

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FREE ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Something happening every second Thursday evening March – May.

Member Orientations / Seed Saving 101

This is really just an introduction to seed saving. Our presentation has improved over the years, and members are welcome to attend this seed saving workshop anytime. Come ask questions and brush up on the fundamentals. Participation at one of these events is a pre-requisite to signing out seed from our collection.

MARCH 4 – 7:00-8:00 PM

APRIL 1 – 7:00-8:00 PM

APRIL 29 – 7:00-8:00 PM

REGISTER

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/victoria-seed-library-member-orientation-seed-saving-101-tickets-140422121345>

FACEBOOK EVENT

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1384603838544266/>

Growing and Saving Seed from Native Plants

This workshop is designed to help people with little to no experience propagating native plants. It will present information on how to propagate a variety of indigenous plant species, as well as some information about the history and climate of this place.

MARCH 18 – 7:00-8:30 PM

REGISTER

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/growing-and-saving-seed-from-native-plants-tickets-140621297085>

FACEBOOK EVENT

<https://www.facebook.com/events/861722857829578>

Making Space for the Birds and the Bees

This workshop will present a variety of different approaches to building habitat for local wildlife. We will discuss some of the different types of plants and plant communities that attract wildlife and dig into the different things that birds and bees need to be healthy in our yard.

APRIL 15 – 7:00-8:30 PM

REGISTER

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/making-space-for-the-birds-and-bees-tickets-140622221851>

FACEBOOK EVENT

<https://www.facebook.com/events/904006043764985>

Growing Winter Vegetables on the Shores of the Salish Sea

This workshop will provide information on when to plant and how to grow those vegetables that commonly thrive in our climate from June through April.

MAY 13 – 7:00-8:30 PM

REGISTER

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/growing-winter-vegetables-on-the-shores-of-the-salish-sea-tickets-140622486643>

FACEBOOK EVENT

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1124673191318323>

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SEED STEWARDSHIP

In our seed catalogue, we have identified some particularly rare and useful varieties that we are committed to trying to preserve. If you are interested in helping us this year by taking on a variety to grow out and bulk up, please contact us (vicseedlibrary@lifecyclesproject.ca).

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FREE SEEDS FOR SCHOOLS

Thanks in large part to the generous donations of local seed saver Rebecca Jehn of *Rebecca's Garden Seed*, we have some seed in such large quantities that we can offer free seed to local schools. This seed will come with a print copy of the concise guide: *Caring for School Gardens on Southern Vancouver Island*.

If you are a parent, teacher or student interested in receiving free seed and/or a print copy of this guide, please contact us (vicseedlibrary@lifecyclesproject.ca).

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With hope for a greener, healthier future
Matthew Kemshaw

For the Victoria Seed Library Steering Committee:
Laura Sampson, Lindsay Hinrichsen, Scott Treager, Deanna Pfeifer and Joan Stonehocker.

Contact: vicseedlibrary@lifecyclesproject.ca

Ps. If you would like join our Steering Committee, or volunteer to pick up, package and drop off seeds at 808 Viewfield Rd, please send us an email.