

Through the garden year to good food!

**Excited about starting your garden this spring,
but a little bit daunted by memories of a jungle of weeds
and an overwhelming harvest of zucchini last year?**

Then join us for...

A series of workshops to accompany the garden season, in which participants have the opportunity to learn from an experienced gardener about key aspects of growing good food, see a garden evolve over the season, learn from each others' experience, get their hands into the soil and enjoy a Saturday afternoon outside in pleasant company.

Where and when

Saturdays from 1:30 to 4:30pm at Persephone Market Garden

Format

The afternoons will start with a lively seminar about a key aspect of gardening (on the porch as the weather allows), continue with a walk through our house garden with plenty of time for questions and refreshments, and conclude with a hands-on activity.

Date	Seminar	Activity
March 15 th (3 rd Saturday)	Planning your garden The enthusiasm of warm spring days can result in a flood of zucchini in July that frightens your family, friends and neighbours. Learn about how to set up your garden so that you have delicious vegetables in suitable quantities for your family and aren't overwhelmed with caring for it.	Design your garden During the rest of the afternoon, you can plan out your garden for the coming season, with the support of Kristine and the experiences of fellow participants. You'll decide what you'll grow and figure out where to put each vegetable (and herb and flower...).
April 26 th (4 th Saturday)	Soil: Where it all starts Healthy food comes from healthy plants, which come from healthy soil. Discover what soil actually is and how to take care of it, so that you can harvest delicious vegetables all season.	Starting seeds One way to make the most of the gardening season is to start vegetables inside. There are many ways to do this and we'll use two of them today; handmade newspaper pots and soil blocks, to start a variety of vegetable transplants.

<p>May 10th (2nd Saturday)</p>	<p>Pests: No need for poison! It can be very disheartening to discover that some critters have enjoyed the fruits of your labour before you could. But there's no need for panic. There are many ways to protect your vegetables from bugs (and other critters) that don't require you to wear a space suit.</p>	<p>Direct seed and transplant in the garden Finally! It's time to get our hands into the soil. Today, we'll seed the first vegetables into the garden and plant some transplants. We'll learn how to give them the best start by giving them the right spacing and depth in the soil, watering them properly and giving them a bit of protection from the weather.</p>
<p>June 14th (2nd Saturday)</p>	<p>Weeds: Brain over brawn will win the day June is when you might start having a hard time keeping up with the weeds, but a rototiller is not the answer! Timing, healthy crops and a bit of mulch can do wonders against weeds...</p>	<p>Build a trellis and mulch With the growing season in full swing, it's time to think about support...for peas, beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, melons. A simple trellis helps keep plants healthy, makes harvesting easier and lets you make the most of a small space. Add some mulch to keep the weeds down and soil moist, and you'll almost be able to watch the veggies grow.</p>
<p>July 12th (2nd Saturday)</p>	<p>Water: How to not spend all your time watering About this time of year, things often get quite dry in Grey Bruce. Learn about how much to water and when, along with some other ways to help you plants through a dry spell.</p>	<p>Summer care With hot weather, the tomatoes will be growing madly, so we'll learn how to prune them to avoid the jungle look, make sure you actually get ripe fruit (not just piles of green tomatoes) and prevent the tomato horn worms from having a feast.</p>
<p>August 9th (2nd Saturday)</p>	<p>Extending the season While July and August are the months everyone thinks of when it comes to fresh vegetables, the harvest doesn't have to end with Labour Day. Many vegetables actually do very well in the cool of fall and taste better than when grown in summer heat. Now's the time to get them started.</p>	<p>Compost Good compost is the magic ingredient in the garden. And making it doesn't have to be complicated. We'll make a pile using materials from the garden and turn another pile that's already been started.</p>
<p>September 13th (2nd Saturday)</p>	<p>Preserving the harvest Early September is a time of abundance in the garden. In order to enjoy the fruits of our labour long into winter, learning how to preserve your vegetables is key. There are many ways to do this and we'll explore the how-to's of several methods, as well as their pros and cons.</p>	<p>Preserving the harvest We'll make a batch of salsa that captures the flavours of summer!</p>

October 11 th (2 nd Saturday)	Putting the garden to bed With the end of the growing season, it's time to prepare the garden for winter. Learn how to prepare your soil for next year, protect it from erosion, clean up beds to prevent pest and disease problems, and plant cover crops!	But it's not quite over While the season is over for many vegetables, a little bit of protection will keep many crops producing well into December. We'll build miniature greenhouses on raised beds and make lights for the coldframe.
--	---	---

Cost and signing up

\$25 per day, if you sign-up for all 8 workshops, otherwise \$30 per day. If you sign-up for all 8 workshops then you get a coupon to bring a friend to one workshop.

We need a minimum of 5 people signed up for each workshop to run and will cap the number at 15 ...if there is more enthusiasm we can arrange for extra workshops.

Call or send an e-mail to Kristine to register...

519-935-3005

kristine.hammel@gmail.com