

# Back to the Future Gardening

## at Diversity Gardens

Purple brussels sprouts, apple-shaped tomatoes, white beets, polka dot lettuce, blue potatoes?!?! No, it is NOT some kind of new genetic modification program. In 2009 Diversity Gardens is celebrating the wonder of heritage flowers, herbs, vegetables and fruits. We have started to re-focus our demonstration gardens to showcase the kinds of things you won't likely see elsewhere.

- **Come by for one of our workshops or events**
- **Join our "Back to the Future Gardening" Club**
- **Volunteer a few hours with us**
- **Pick up some unusual produce at our farm stand**
- **Support Canadian Organic Growers and you support local AND organic food!**

Diversity Gardens is a series of demonstration gardens operated by Canadian Organic Growers (Perth-Waterloo-Wellington Chapter). It is a not-for-profit, charitable project dedicated to raising awareness of organic issues. We provide hands on training in growing ornamentals, vegetables, fruits and herbs using organic techniques.

The gardens are open for self-guided tours on Saturdays and Sundays from the beginning of May to Thanksgiving. On those days, our **certified organic produce** is available for sale at our farm stand on site.

Workshops and tours are **free** - but we charge for parking! We have very limited parking so to encourage you to carpool with friends, we now charge \$10 to park in the driveway beside the gardens.

**Please register for all workshops and events in advance so that we can notify you of changes in case of unsuitable weather.**

Email us at: [cogpww@sympatico.ca](mailto:cogpww@sympatico.ca)

Leave a message at: 519-885-9584

Website: [www.cogwaterloo.ca](http://www.cogwaterloo.ca)

Located adjacent to: 1528 Notre Dame Drive, St. Agatha, Ontario

### Join our Back to the Future Gardening Club

We live in changing times. Global warming, monocultures and trans-national agri-businesses threaten food security and plant biodiversity. Respond with your hands! Get them dirty and join our Back to the Future Garden club.

In exchange for \$100 for the season (charitable receipt for \$50) or 10 hours of your time in garden labour, you will receive a monthly gift over the summer:

- May - mini vegetable garden kit complete with seeds and transplants for planting in pots on your balcony or in your front or backyard
- June – quart of fresh organic strawberries, and new strawberry plants to take home
- July – free appetizers at "Come Taste the Future"
- August – open access to plants from our perennial beds
- September – package of bulbs for planting
- October – package of fall decorative including grasses, pumpkins and gourds

And...

- Free parking all season at Diversity Gardens
- Produce list weekly so you can reserve items in short supply

**Sunday July 26 noon – 4:00 pm**

### Come Taste the Future - Heritage Produce tasting

The food is free – but you pay for the stories. Buy as many story tickets as you want,. Then relax in our gardens while our servers wander around telling tales about where these amazing foods came from, how they came to us and how we grew them organically. And of course, they'll be serving trays of interesting and unusual appetizers made especially for you from the heritage organic produce in our demonstration gardens.

**Capacity is limited – so you must register in advance!**

Canadian Organic Growers  
Cultivons Biologique Canada 

# Back to the Future – A Celebration of Heritage Gardening

## 2009 Workshop Series at Diversity Gardens

### Earth Day at Diversity Gardens- Wednesday April 22: 10:00 – 4:00

#### Plant seeds from the past to solve the problems of the future

What better way to celebrate Earth Day than to be nurturing seeds and baby plants? Volunteer for 2 hours in our greenhouse and then sow some heritage vegetable and flower seeds for your own garden. We'll give you everything you need to start some flowers, herbs or vegetables - or bring your own seeds to start. If you volunteer with us, you can even leave your plants growing in our greenhouse and pick them up at the end of May when they can go outside.

#### Perennial Gardens Work Bee

##### Saturday April 25 – 10:00 – 12:00

Join us to celebrate earth week with the opening of our perennial gardens. Work along side experienced organic growers and use the opportunity to get all the free advice you need for your garden this year. All volunteers will be able to take home a thank-you package of seeds and vegetable plants.

#### Seedy Saturday - Seed Swap & Sale

##### Saturday April 25 - 10:00 – 12:00

Bring seeds to trade, or purchase seeds that our gardeners have treasured. Browse our organic library and get a preview of our new gardens demonstrating heritage vegetables and organic vegetable rotations.

#### Plant Sales

##### Saturday May 23 and Saturday May 30

##### 9:00 – noon

Come early for the best selection – last year even in the pouring rain many vegetable varieties sold out by 10:00! Check our website close to that date for updates and a list of what we expect to be available. We should have a wide variety of heritage vegetable and flower plants that you aren't likely to find elsewhere. Bring your own boxes to carry your treasures home!

If you know what you want - and plan on ordering over \$30 worth of plants - you can order in advance by email and we'll have them packaged for you. Orders over \$30 can receive a charitable receipt for half the value of the purchase.

#### Open House and Strawberry Festival

##### Saturday June 20 - Guided Tours at 10, 12, and 2:00

Drop by the village of St. Agatha (just 1.5 km up the road from us) and participate in some of the Strawberry Festival activities - then come for a tour of Diversity Gardens. Learn about organic berry culture and how you can have luscious berries of different types in your own garden. Organic strawberries will be available for purchase at our farm stand.

#### Permaculture Workshop

##### Saturday July 11 – 10:00 – 12:00

Come tour AnnaMarie's double dug garden in our "gardener in residence" showcase plot, and learn the permaculture practices she is following there.

#### Orientation Pot-Luck

##### Saturday April 25 – 12:00 – 2:00

Interested in volunteering in the gardens this year? Whatever your interest - come for a pot luck lunch and orientation to our program for the year. We are looking for many kinds of help - working in the gardens and greenhouse, harvesting and packaging vegetables for our farm stand, making garden signage, helping with promotion etc etc. Please let us know you are coming so we know how many to expect.

#### Seed Saving Garden Tours

##### August 29 at 10:00, and again at 1:00

Bring a bundle of envelopes and join us on a seeding saving walk through our heritage flower and vegetable gardens. You will learn about pollination and how to save seeds for a wide variety of ornamentals and vegetables. Take seed home with you. Save Seed and Save the Future!

#### Rediscovering Canadian Tomatoes

##### September 19 - 10:00 – noon

Did you know that there are no longer any garden tomato breeding programs in Canada? All new varieties on the market are bred for American gardens and growing conditions. Most seed companies are importing seeds from other countries and tomatoes that were bred in Canada in decades past are being lost. But - you can save them!!

Come learn to grow heritage tomatoes and save their seed. You'll get a chance to taste true Canadian tomatoes and take some of their seeds home with you for next year.

#### Gourds workshop and Squash Swap

##### October 10 - 10:00 - noon

Gourds are one of the oldest cultivated crops that are believed to have spanned the entire globe in prehistoric times. Gourds were most commonly used for storing supplies, hauling water, making cooking and eating utensils, musical instruments, bird feeders, bird houses, and rattles. Today gourds are still considered one of nature's greatest gifts to mankind. Join us for a discussion of gourd growing and drying. Learn about the variety of vegetables in the cucurbits family and how to grow them organically. Bring a squash from your garden this season and swap it for a different variety.