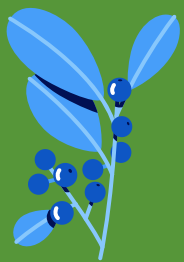


>>> NEWS & EVENTS <<<

GROWING & CHANGING

**UPCOMING CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS--PAGE 4****THINK
HARVEST
BEFORE YOU
PLANT**

IT'S SEED CATALOGUE SEASON

With all our favorite seed catalogues arriving it's easy get excited and just start ordering, but planning for your 2024 garden actually starts with thinking about what you want to harvest and store for next winter.

--check out page 3 for some planning tips and recommendations

TIME GOES TOO QUICKLY

2023 was a very busy year on the Homestead and for Grow & Change. Garden expansion, a new business formed, a great season of growing with my garden partner and a beautiful fall wedding. The long fall lent itself to projects and planning for 2024. -Page 2

**WHAT A
YEAR IT'S
BEEN**

2023 GARDEN PROGRESS

2



HUGELKULTUR AT LET IT BEE FARM



NEW TRUCKING BUSINESS



GARDEN PARTY



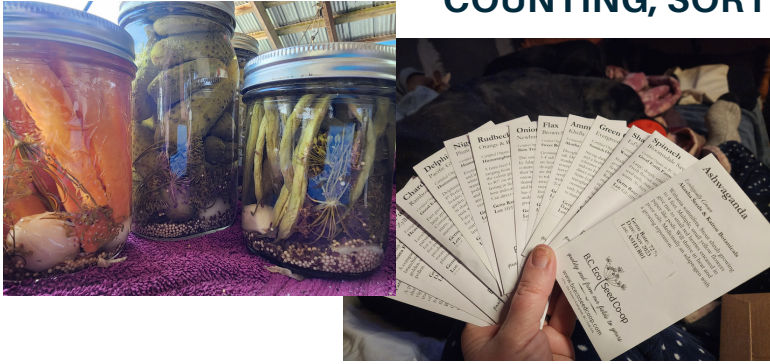
MIKE & JAZMYN OCT 7 2023



PLANNING FOR THE WHOLE YEAR

1

COUNTING, SORTING, REFLECTING



THESE SNOWY WINTER DAYS MAKE US WANT TO DREAM OF DAYS IN THE SUN WITH OUR HANDS IN THE DIRT SO WHEN THOSE BEAUTIFUL COLOURFUL SEED CATALOGUES ARRIVE IN YOUR MAILBOX IT'S VERY EASY TO GET EXCITED AND START DREAMING OF ALL THE YUMMY, PRETTY THINGS WE'RE GOING TO GROW IN OUR GARDENS AND FLOWER BEDS. I MUST ADMIT I DO INDULGE IN FLIPPING THROUGH AND CIRCLING SOME INTRIGUING ITEMS BEFORE I REEL MYSELF IN AND MAKE A PLAN.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS I CONSIDER AND DO BEFORE ORDERING MY SEEDS FOR THE SEASON

*****WHAT IS LEFT IN OUR FOOD STORAGE? CANNING SHELVES? FREEZERS?*****

I LIKE TO TAKE THIS TIME TO DO SOME ORGANISING AND STOCK TAKING OF OUR STORAGE SPACES. PULL OUT ALL THE EMPTY JARS FROM THE SHELVES AND TAKE INVENTORY FOR THE CANNING SEASON. CHECK DATES ON THE CANNED GOODS ON THE SHELVES AND TOSS (AKA FEED TO CHICKENS AND COMPOST) ANYTHING OLDER THAN 2 YEARS. I'LL POLL THE FAMILY AS WELL AT THIS TIME TO SEE WHAT SHOULD BE REPEATED OR TAKEN OFF THE MENU. PICKLES ARE ALWAYS A FAVOURITE AS ARE GREEN BEANS, PEACHES, PEARS AND CHERRIES. I FIND SOMETIMES THAT THE CANNING GETS FORGOTTEN IN THE BASEMENT AND I AM ENDEAVOURING TO BRING ITEMS UP TO THE KITCHEN ON A REGULAR BASIS TO MORE EASILY INCLUDE THEM IN OUR DIETS.

LIKEWISE WITH THE FREEZER. I LIKE TO DIG TO THE BOTTOM.. THAW OUT THE MYSTERY BAGS, A COUPLE AT A TIME, MAKE JAM, SOUP OR BAKING OR MAYBE JUST COMPOST. LOOK AT WHAT FROZE WELL AND WHAT WE MAY WANT TO PROCESS DIFFERENTLY IN THE FUTURE.. AS FREEZERS TAKE ELECTRICITY, IF I CAN REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF FREEZER SPACE USED BY FOOD THAT COULD BE DEHYDRATED OR CANNED THEN THAT IS A BENEFIT.

BY NOW MOST SQUASH, ROOT VEGGIES, ONIONS AND GARLIC WE HAVE STORED HAVE BEEN CONSUMED AND IF WE DO HAVE SOME LEFT ITS TIME TO THINK ABOUT PROCESSING THEM INTO OTHER FORMS AND STORING THEM.

*****WHICH CROPS PRODUCED WELL AND WHICH STRUGGLED? AND WHY?*****

A LOOK BACK AT HOW THE GARDEN FARED. I TAKE THE TIME TO LOOK AT THE VARIETIES OF VEGETABLES I CHOSE TO PLANT AND WHETHER THEY MET THE NEEDS AND TASTES OF OUR FAMILY. FOR INSTANCE I PLANTED TWO VARIETIES OF PICKLING CUCUMBERS AND TRULY PREFERRED ONE OVER THE OTHER. WE HAVE A FEW RELIABLE STANDARDS THAT WE PLANT EACH YEAR BUT I LIKE TO TRY SOME NEW THINGS EACH YEAR AND TEND TO ADD ONE OR TWO OF THESE TO OUR PLAN IN FOLLOWING YEARS. IT IS GOOD TO CHANGE UP VARIETIES AS THERE ARE NEW ONES AVAILABLE AND SOMETIMES YOU CAN TRICK THE BUGS WITH NEW TASTES AND THEY WILL BE A LITTLE LESS TROUBLESOME WITH SOME ROTATION.

*****WHAT WILL WE GROW FOR FUN THIS YEAR??*****

EACH YEAR WE CHOSE A FEW UNIQUE PLANTS, A COUPLE PRACTICAL AND A COUPLE JUST FOR FUN, BEAUTY OR CREATIVITY. ITS GOOD TO EXPERIMENT AND TRY NEW THINGS. BUT I HAVE LEARNED BY ERROR TO DO MY RESEARCH AND BE SURE I AM PUTTING MY "NEW" PLANTS IN THE RIGHT LOCATION.

*****WHERE WILL WE BE GROWING THIS YEAR?*****

I DO BELIEVE THAT CROP ROTATION IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE HEALTHY SOIL AND PEST MANAGEMENT. IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP A RECORD OF SOME SORT OF THE LAYOUT OF YOUR GARDEN YEAR TO YEAR. I TEND TO DO THIS WITH PICTURES ON MY PHONE TO REFERENCE IS EASY. I AM ALSO IN A STATE OF EXPANSION OF THE GARDEN AS I HOPE TO DO SOME GROWING FOR MARKETS AND OTHER MEANS. NOW ITS TIME TO MAKE A PLAN AND ORDER THOSE SEEDS!!

I TEND TO ORDER FROM AT LEAST 3 DIFFERING SEED COMPANIES AND ALSO FREQUENT MY LOCAL SEED SAVERS TO EXCHANGE SEEDS AND GAIN KNOWLEDGE. WE DO SAVE SEEDS FROM A LOT OF OUR PLANTS BUT DO NOT ALWAYS HAVE AS MANY AS WE NEED.

THIS YEAR I HAVE ORDERED FROM THE BC ECO SEED CO-OP, T&T SEEDS, AND VESSEYS.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT I HAVE ORDERED AND HOW THEY GROW PLEASE LIKE AND SUBSCRIBE TO MY WEBSITE
WWW.GROWANDCHANGE.CA

UPCOMING CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

WINTER SOWING PARTY	FEB 3 & 10 1-4PM	THE FARM IN MARA
GARDEN GURU VINE & BUSH VEGETABLES	FEB 11 9-12	OKANAGAN COLLEGE SALMON ARM CAMPUS
GARDEN GURU ROOT VEGETABLES	FEB 11 1-4	OKANAGAN COLLEGE SALMON ARM CAMPUS
GARDEN GURU HERBS & EDIBLE FLOWERS	FEB 25 9-12	OKANAGAN COLLEGE SALMON ARM CAMPUS
GARDEN GURU LEAFY GREENS	FEB 25 1-4	OKANAGAN COLLEGE SALMON ARM CAMPUS
GARDEN GURU THE FULL SEASON	FEB 26 & 28 MAR 4, 6, 11 & 13	OKANAGAN COLLEGE SALMON ARM CAMPUS
FRUIT TREE PRUNING	BEGINNING FEB 15	CONTACT TO BOOK PRUNING AND PRIVATE LESSONS

TO REGISTER FOR UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND BOOK SERVICES

**PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TO MY WEBSITE FOR UPDATES AND TO RECIEVE
REGULAR NEWSLETTERS**