



Growing Food and Gardening in Mixed-Use, Multi-Unit Residential Developments

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Table of Contents

- Purpose3
- Community gardening5
- Urban farming8
- Home gardening9
- Edible landscaping and pollinator gardening9
- Rooftops11
 - Green roofs and food production13
 - Rooftop greenhouses13
 - Rooftop beekeeping14
- Vacant lots16
- Place-making and community gathering17
- Resources18
 - City contacts and information18
 - Local organizations19

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Purpose

The City of Victoria encourages urban gardening and food production in mixed-use, multi-unit residential developments. Urban gardening and food production help create healthy and diverse ecosystems while building community and our food security. Creative ways to incorporate urban gardening and food production can also increase the value and amenity of buildings for tenants and owners alike, while creating or enhancing unique development project features.

The goal of this guide is to offer tips, resources and examples to encourage the successful and durable incorporation of urban gardening and food production in new and existing developments. It also aims to increase awareness about existing good practices and opportunities to innovate.

This guide introduces building design and management opportunities that include:

- Using common outdoor spaces such as rooftops and courtyards for community gardens and urban farms.
- Incorporating edible landscaping and pollinator gardening into landscaped areas.
- Offering educational activities and resources for home or community gardening.
- Making vacant lots or underutilized spaces available for temporary community gardens or urban farms.
- Integrating place-making and community gathering features complementary to urban gardening and food production.

Project benefits and determining factors are best assessed on a case-by-case basis. For example, a project may incur additional costs or reduce building operating costs, and it can be temporary or long-term. This guide explores the multiple options and potential advantages to incorporating urban gardening and food production in developments.

Developments can also support urban food systems in ways that do not involve on-site gardening and food production. A community kitchen, a farmer's market or an office space for local community food organizations can all be valuable food assets. However, such assets go beyond the scope of this guide.

For more information on this guide, contact Development Services at DevelopmentServices@victoria.ca and 250.361.0316



Food production in the LEEDv4 green building rating system

In Canada, new development projects looking to achieve LEEDv4 certification may obtain the pilot credit SSpc82: Local Food Production by dedicating a portion of the site to growing food. Specific requirements for a minimum food producing area and integrated pest management practices apply, depending on which LEEDv4 rating system is used. The LEED rating systems that include food production are Building Design and Construction (BD+C), Homes and Midrise (H + M), Interior Design and Construction (ID + C), School Projects, Operations and Maintenance (O+M), and Neighbourhood Development (ND).

To obtain the pilot credit SSpc82: Local Food Production, new commercial and industrial construction projects and existing buildings (BD + C, ID + C and O + M) must demonstrate that one of the following options for size and area is dedicated to food bearing plants:

- At least 5% of the site's vegetated area (excluding preserved or restored habitat area) but no less than 250 square feet.
- At least one square foot per Full Time Equivalent (excluding visitors) but no less than 200 square feet.
- For urban projects with a minimum density of 1.5 Floor Area Ratio (FAR), at least 10% or 15% (depending on applicable LEEDv4 rating system) of useable roof top surface area but no less than 200 square feet.

Homes and mid-rise residential units (H + M) have different requirements. Multifamily sites are required to:

- Provide 15 square feet of food-producing vegetation space for each multifamily unit, or 50 square feet per single family home.
- For projects with a minimum density of 1.5 FAR, at least 15% of useable roof top surface area but no less than 200 square feet must be dedicated to food bearing plants.

BD+ C, H + M, School Projects, ID + C and O + M must include at least three differing crops, and herbs used for food preparation cannot exceed 25% of the area requirement. The preparation and distribution of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices is also required.

Neighborhood Development (ND) projects must ensure that the growing of produce is not prohibited in project areas, and provide one of the following options: Neighborhood gardens, community supported agriculture program, and proximity to farmers market. Specific requirements apply.

usgbc.org



*Via Verde, a mixed-income housing development in the Bronx (New York City) includes several gardening areas, including a community orchard and a rooftop allotment garden. The Via Verde Garden Club is supported by **Grow NYC**, a non-profit organization providing free tools and services to improve the City's environment.*

Photo credit: David Sundberg/ESTO.



*A shared food producing courtyard at the **Daniels FirstHome Hazelton Place** in Toronto (The Daniels Corporation). Shared courtyards have good potential for growing food because they are often designed to be accessible, open, and flat. They also serve as high pedestrian traffic areas and gathering spaces, combining opportunities for community building activities, ongoing garden oversight and care.*

Photos courtesy of The Daniels Corporation.

Community gardening

A community garden is an area that is gardened collectively by community members, usually in partnership with a group or organization that oversees the garden's operations and management. The harvest is available to garden members or the public, but is usually not sold for profit. In Victoria, **Commons Gardens** and **Community Orchards** are typically maintained by volunteers and the harvest is shared with the community. **Allotment Gardens** have individual garden plots that are maintained and harvested by individual gardeners.

Community gardens can be private, meaning they are only available to building tenants, or they can be made available to the general public and create an attractive area for the neighbourhood. Community gardens can be designed and built by the developer, or a space can be set aside for tenants to create their own community garden project.

Tips for community gardens

Consider these suggestions to design and build functional, safe and thriving community gardens.

Placement

- Ensure sufficient sunlight (minimum of 6 hrs per day) by maximizing south facing exposure.
- Keep in mind that nearby trees may grow or neighbouring properties may be developed, which may impact access to sunlight.
- Windscreen may be needed to shelter the garden and improve growing conditions.
- Locate the garden a safe distance from vehicles and potential contamination from street traffic, and building ventilation air vents.
- Situate the garden near shared and complementary amenities like washrooms, kids play areas, outdoor or indoor eating and cooking areas, and seating for rest or social interaction.

Access

- Provide safe and easy access to the garden, and consider how you will move soil, compost, plants, clippings and mulch. A wheel barrow, dolly or truck may be necessary to haul larger items. A dedicated delivery space accessible by dump truck is ideal.
- Incorporate accessibility features to accommodate gardeners using wheelchairs, walkers, strollers, or other. Wheelchair accessible pathways should be at least 1.5m wide.

Garden plots

- Making garden plots accessible can involve building raised beds 3 feet high for people who cannot bend over or kneel easily. In accessible plots, the distance between the perimeter and the center of the plot should not be more than 18 inches, and the plot should be accessible on all sides.
- A minimum soil depth of 18 inches is recommended, however more or less soil may be preferable depending on the site or plant.
- Only use high quality soil free of toxins and suitable for the production of food crops.
- If building garden boxes, consider the safety of the material used, ensuring that no toxins could leach into the soil. Do not use pressure treated wood.
- Note that some prefer not to use cedar for garden boxes or as mulch. Cedar can release a chemical that inhibits bacteria and fungus growth, both of which are essential to soil and plant health.

Support facilities

- Provide multiple water access points nearby (e.g. hose bibs), ideally within 20 feet of any garden plot.
- Include a toolshed, storage room or lockers for shared and personal gardening tools to be safely kept.
- Have a plan for how locked facilities will be accessed by gardeners. Options to consider include individual keys or a combination access code.
- A dedicated composting area will turn garden trimmings into valuable garden amendments. It should be pest-proof, easy to use, and have the capacity to handle the garden's organic waste.
- Install a notice board providing emergency contacts and other relevant information such as community events or work bees. Consider including the name and contact information of an appointed garden coordinator or garden committee members, and if applicable, a watering or compost turning schedule.
- Know how ongoing costs such as site maintenance and watering will be covered.
- Other features that can enhance the garden include deer proof fencing, electrical outlets, area lighting, and a small greenhouse with a potting bench to start seedlings and extend the growing season.

Community partners

- Non-profit societies such as neighbourhood associations, local food groups and schools can provide insight on existing resources and community interest for community gardens.
- Local trade schools or correctional centres offering carpentry, gardening or other training programs can help design and build community gardens while providing hands-on experience.
- Local private businesses or consultants can contribute urban gardening expertise and help facilitate the creation and coordination of community gardens.



Community gardens in Strata Corporations buildings are subject to rules and regulations including the BC Strata Property Act, the Registered Strata Plan, and Bylaws. To find out what you need to know to put a community garden on the common property of a strata building, see “**Starting a Food Garden: A Resource Guide for Strata Corporations**” created by the edible garden project of the North Shore Neighbourhood House in Vancouver. ediblegardenproject.com/tag/strata-guide

Information on community gardens and orchards is available at victoria.ca/growinginthecity.

Urban farming

Most **urban farms** grow crops to sell, and the harvest is sold for profit. Some urban farms operate as social enterprises or non-profits offering educational, training or community building activities. Urban farms can be built on underutilized areas not publically accessible such as rooftops (see p. 11) or vacant lots (see p. 16). Urban farming can also be part of the core building design and become a public site amenity providing access to healthy and local food, as well as local economic opportunities.

In Victoria, growing and selling food is allowed in all zones. Urban producers can grow and sell edible and non-edible products including unprocessed fruits and vegetables, flowers, herbs, fibre, seeds, nuts, seedlings, mushrooms, plant cuttings, eggs and honey. Business licences must be obtained to sell products on-site (i.e. at a food stand) and off-site (i.e. at a restaurant or farmers market).

For more information on growing food to sell, see victoria.ca/foodproduction, visit the Business Hub at City Hall or contact the Business Ambassador at bizhub@victoria.ca or 250.361.0629



Empress Green is an urban farm operator and consultancy specializing in intensive food production in unconventional spaces. Since 2016 they have held the role of Farmers in Residence at Staten Island Urby, a 571 rental apartment development in New York City. The Urby farm sits in a courtyard between two buildings and also includes a small rooftop apiary. Empress Green sells the produce to local chefs and a 45-member CSA, as well as producing events such as farm to table dinners and workshops. Empress Green is contracted by Urby to run the farm, and as part of the contract they receive a monthly fee and use of an apartment at Urby. Empress Green also keeps the profits from the sale of the produce and honey.

Photo Valery Rizzo. empressgreen.com; urbystatenisland.com.



In Paris, the City-led initiative “Les Parisculteurs” is aiming to cover the city’s rooftops and walls with 100 hectares (247 acres) of vegetation by 2020, with 1/3 of the space dedicated to urban farming. Companies and public institutions signed a charter to partner with the City in developing urban agriculture. Part of the Parisculteurs initiative, the urban farm Topager grows hops at the Bastille Opera House in containers placed on the sidewalk. Topager also operates a 2500 square metres rooftop vegetable farm.

Photos courtesy of Topager. parisculteurs.paris; topager.com

Home gardening

Home gardening usually takes place in private spaces, where the harvest is for home use or to be shared. With the right techniques, small private gardening spaces such as backyards, patios, balconies, windowsills, decks and even indoor spaces, can produce food crops for humans and pollinators. These spaces present unique opportunities to start small and experiment with systems that meet individual needs and interests. Workshops can build knowledge and confidence to grow one's own food while bringing people together. Topics to consider include:

- Learning about different planter types (e.g. build your own self-watering garden container).
- Maximizing vertical growing space.
- Selecting plant varieties suitable for container growing as well as existing sun and wind exposure.
- Starting seeds and other plant propagation techniques.
- Caring for container plants through appropriate watering, fertilizing and pruning.
- Using indoor grow lights for year round production of greens, herbs and shoots.
- Vermicomposting or worm composting, a technique particularly suitable for apartment or condo dwellers without a backyard area.
- Growing culinary mushrooms.
- Preserving foods and culinary or medicinal herbs.

Vermicomposting (worm composting) requires a special type of worm called a red wiggler and a specially designed bin. It is an effective way to use small spaces to convert food waste into nutrient rich castings that can feed your plants.

Photo courtesy of The Compost Education Centre.



In Victoria D.I.Y. Fungi offers workshops and supplies to grow your own mushrooms for food, medicine and soil health.

Photo courtesy of D.I.Y. Fungi.

Edible landscaping and pollinator gardening

Edible landscaping is the use of food-producing plants and trees (leaves, nuts, berries, fruits, flowers) in place of more commonly used ornamental plants. Designing a landscape to prioritize food plants instead of ornamental plants can provide similar aesthetics, with the added value of providing food. For example, a fruiting plum can be planted instead of an ornamental flowering plum.

About 1/3 of the food we eat is the result of insect pollination. Native pollinators are threatened by habitat loss, climate change, pests or diseases, pesticide use and invasive plants. **Pollinator gardening** is the planting of flowering plants and trees that provide pollen or nectar as well as habitat for pollinators such as bees, butterflies or birds.

Parks, boulevards, a business storefront, a courtyard, or areas around or up a building all present opportunities for edible landscaping and pollinator gardening. These spaces can be designed and maintained as part of ongoing site maintenance or made available for the local community to steward.

Tips for edible landscaping and pollinator gardening

- Areas that are protected from contamination and are easily accessible such as high traffic pedestrian areas have good edible landscaping potential.
- Do not use pesticides.
- Possible dropping of fruits on sidewalks should be minimized.
- Provide signage or other educational installation such as demonstration apiaries or edible landscape site maps.
- Garden with native plants to create beneficial habitats for native pollinators.
- Leave areas with leaves, sticks and rotting wood that all provide pollinator habitat.
- Many non-native plants are good for pollinators, but make sure these plants are not invasive. The Invasive Species Council of BC offers resources to help you identify invasive plants.



These demonstration honey bee hives can be found at the Fairmont Empress Hotel in downtown Victoria.



Boulevards are the grassy strip of land between a property and the street and are owned by the City. Boulevard gardens can help create more beautiful, interesting and diverse streets, and improve local food security. They can also support increased ecological diversity by providing bird, butterfly and pollinator habitats.

Photo (left) courtesy of Mike Large, streetgreens.com.

To learn about how you can create an edible landscape or a pollinator habitat on a City boulevard, consult the City's **Boulevard Gardening Guidelines**, available at victoria.ca/growinginthecity. Tips and resources to support pollinators are available at victoria.ca/pollinators.

Pollinator Partnership Canada offers pollinator friendly planting guides tailored to specific ecoregions and other resources to create pollinator habitat. pollinator.org/canada.



Brooklyn Grange Farms in New York City operates two rooftop vegetable farms made of raised beds on an intensive green roof totalling 1.4 hectares.

Photo courtesy of Brooklyn Grange. brooklyngrangefarm.com



*The **Santropol Roulant** rooftop garden is an example of raised bed gardening and food production on an intensive green roof. Santropol Roulant is a community food hub in Montreal, QC.*

Photos courtesy of Santropol Roulant. santropolroulant.org

Rooftops

Rooftop gardening encompasses anything from flower planters on a roof terrace, to growing food commercially on a rooftop covered with soil and vegetation. Designing or repurposing urban roofs for gardening and food production can:

- Increase access to outdoor green spaces using underutilized areas of the urban landscape.
- Reduce storm water runoff.
- Increase biodiversity in dense urban environments.
- Help insulate buildings and capture the heat generated by the building.
- Reduce the urban heat island effect and associated energy use.
- Enhance site aesthetics.
- Improve air quality.
- Provide opportunities for social interaction.

Tips for rooftop gardening

- The addition of wind breaks, cold frames or heating cables can enhance year-round site productivity.
- Maximize sun exposure and minimize shade.
- Keep in mind that nearby trees may grow or neighbouring properties may be developed, which may impact access to sunlight.
- The BC Building Code establishes applicable regulations and safety requirements, such as railings and handguards.
- Allow for the safe and easy access and movement of people and materials. Direct access via elevator from a loading area at grade is preferable.

The building must be structurally capable of supporting the additional roof loads and other dynamic loads such as wind, and have appropriate waterproofing or other protective membranes. New buildings can be designed to bear load or waterproofing requirements, but existing buildings may need structural retrofits. You may need to consult an engineer or architect to assess the building. Contact Permits and Inspection at permits@victoria.ca for more information.

Green roofs and food production

Green roofs are conventional roofs fully or partly covered by a growing medium. They are designed to support living vegetation, but not all green roofs are suitable for food production.

Extensive green roofs generally have shallow (less than 100mm) and well drained substrates. They can accommodate drought resistant plants and have little need for irrigation after establishment, fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. Extensive green roofs are not usually accessible to the public or used to grow food, but they can provide valuable pollinator habitat.

Intensive green roofs have the most food production potential. They have deeper substrates (more than 100mm) that can support a wider range of plants, habitats and biodiversity. They also require more maintenance, irrigation and site access. They tend to be much heavier than extensive green roofs. An intensive green roof can be gardened much like a garden plot at ground level.

The City of Victoria **Rainwater Rewards** incentive program offers stormwater credits for green roofs; up to 40% reduction on the stormwater fee is available. For more information, see victoria.ca/stormwater.



In Montreal's St-Laurent borough, the supermarket IGA extra Famille Duchemin sells honey and produce grown on its roof by La Ligne Verte-Maraîcher. The irrigation system uses water recovered from the dehumidification system. The garden area is approximately 25,000 square feet and the operation is certified organic by Ecocert Canada.

Photos courtesy of IGA. ligneverte.ca; igaduchemin.com/frais-du-toit



The quarter-acre urban farm at **Ryerson University** (Toronto) is situated on the rooftop of the George Vari Engineering and Computing Centre. In May 2009 Toronto City Council adopted a bylaw to require and govern the construction of green roofs on new developments.

Photos courtesy of Kaylem Boileau.

Rooftop greenhouses

Rooftop greenhouses can enable year-round local food production within dense urban environments. In Victoria rooftop greenhouses are permitted on multi-unit developments such as apartment buildings with at least four units. Rooftop greenhouses are defined as glass or other translucent structures used for the cultivation or protection of plants. Victoria's *Zoning Bylaw* and *Zoning Regulation Bylaw* sets specific requirements for buildings, including height, floor area and number of storeys. Rooftop greenhouses are excluded from the calculation of these building requirements if they:

- Measure less than 3.65 metres in height.
- Measure 28 square metres or cover no more than 50% of the building's roof area, whichever is less.



If a greenhouse is bigger than those dimensions, or if zoning does not permit a rooftop greenhouse, you may need to apply for a rezoning or a variance. All rooftop greenhouses require a building permit. Depending on the greenhouse features you might also need to apply for a development permit, heritage alteration permit, plumbing permit, electrical permit, or a gas permit. A minimum setback may apply.



The **Banff Community Greenhouse** is located on the rooftop of Cascade Shops in Banff, BC. Twenty-two gardening containers in the greenhouse are allocated to community gardeners.

Photos courtesy of the Banff Greenhouse Gardening Society.



Lufa Farms operate commercial hydroponic rooftop greenhouses in Montreal (QC) that capture the heat from the building below.

Photos courtesy of Lufa Farms. lufafarms.ca

More information on rooftop greenhouses in Victoria is available at victoria.ca/growinginthecity.

Rooftop beekeeping

Rooftops not accessible by the public or tenants can provide a quiet and secluded environment for beehives while putting to good use an underutilized area. Spacious and open rooftops provide the necessary space for bees to safely exit and enter their hives. Rooftop bees may also be less plagued by soil-born insects or natural predators like racoons.



The Harbour Air Terminal in Victoria has four rooftop beehives and a green roof planted with native sedum.

Tips for rooftop beekeeping

- Year-round, safe and easy site access for the beekeeper is key. The beekeeper will need to bring up hives, bring honey down at harvest and inspect and feed the hives.
- Bee hives may need to be protected from high winds and secured onto the roof.
- Consider planting pollinator plants on the rooftop or at ground level landscaping.
- Chemical pesticides harm bees and pollinators. Under the Victoria *Pesticide Use Reduction Bylaw*, only pesticides on the provincial list of reduced risk permitted pesticides can be used, unless a permit is obtained. Pesticide use must be a last resort.
- Bees cannot land on water, instead they must land on a hard surface and walk over to the water. Bird baths with gentle slopes are good examples of adequate water access.
- If the rooftop is accessible to the public or tenants, consider hosting demonstration gardens and providing educational signage and workshops.



The City of Victoria *Animal Responsibility Bylaw* permits an unspecified number of bee hives with few restrictions, and keeping bees for leisure or commercial purposes is allowed anywhere in the City. A Victoria beekeeper must:

- Provide adequate water for the bees to help prevent bees from seeking water from other private or community bodies of water.
- Maintain the bees in a condition that will prevent swarming. This can involve ensuring adequate sun exposure and airflow, as well as preventing and monitoring for diseases and pests.
- Keep hives at least 7.6 metres away from each property line, unless there is a solid fence or hedge at least 1.8 metre tall parallel to the property line.
- Register their hives with BC Ministry of Agriculture.

For tips to minimize pesticide use and encourage beneficial insects see victoria.ca/pesticide_reduction.

The **Capital Region Beekeepers' Association** offers resources for new and seasoned beekeepers. Visit capitalregionbeekeepers.ca or contact them at info@capitalregionbeekeepers.ca or 250.900.5787.

Vacant lots

Lots left empty as they await development could be made available for temporary community garden projects or urban farms and have a positive impact on urban areas. Below are some examples of community gardens and urban farms that grow food on vacant lots.



Building temporary community gardens on vacant lots waiting to be developed can result in the reclassification of private properties by BC Assessment from a commercial tax class to a less costly “recreational and non-profit” tax class. The **Community Garden at Davie Street and Burrard Avenue** in Vancouver is a well-known example of these temporary gardens. Photo courtesy of Davie Street community gardeners.



Shifting Growth is a registered charity that builds, maintains and manages temporary community gardens. London Drugs returned its tax savings resulting from property reclassification (see paragraph on left) to Shifting Growth to help finance the construction of the Hastings North Community Garden in Vancouver. Photo courtesy of Shifting Growth. shiftinggrowth.com



TOP SOIL is an urban agriculture business operating on a temporarily vacant 20,000 square foot lot at Dockside Green in Victoria West. Their unique modular growing system produces a large variety of crops which are all grown in geotextile containers. Thousands of pounds of produce are sold to local restaurants and the surrounding communities each year. Photo courtesy of TOP SOIL. topsoilatlocal.com



Sole Food Street Farms is a Vancouver-based urban farm and social enterprise owned by Cultivate Canada, a registered charity. Sole Food focuses on empowering individuals with limited resources who are managing addiction and chronic mental health problems. The urban farm grows fruits and vegetables in movable containers on vacant lots in downtown Vancouver. The harvest is sold to farmers markets, restaurants, and through market shares. Photo from the book “Street Farm; Growing food, jobs, and hope on the urban frontier” by Michael Ableman. solefoodfarm.com



The first **Pollinator Week** celebration in Toronto was launched with the unveiling of a mural depicting a sweat bee. Toronto is the first Bee City in Canada.

Photo courtesy of Bee City. beecitycanada.org

Place-making and community gathering

Where appropriate, place-making and community gathering opportunities should be integrated into the design and programming of urban gardening and food production activities.

Strategies to enhance social activity connected to urban gardening and food production may include incorporating outdoor, semi-enclosed or fully enclosed gathering spaces. Consider a range of amenities that can act as a focal point and activity node for the project, such as:

- A seating area with tables to host picnics and community feasts.
- A shared community oven or barbecue.
- Bike parking.
- Community notice boards.
- A canopy structure such as a gazebo for weather protection.
- A children's play area.

To ensure a positive and welcoming interface with adjacent public spaces, consider:

- Providing educational and interpretive elements such as wayfinding signage and self-guided tours.
- Facilitating community or public art such as murals, water play features, or sculptures.
- Including design elements that draw people in, such as arbours and vines at entranceways.
- Hosting public events and community celebrations in partnership with local groups and organizations.



Individuals, community organizations and business can rent this cob oven and outdoor kitchen located in Centennial Park in Duncan, BC.

Photo courtesy of the Cowichan Community Kitchens.



Resources

City contacts and information

Growing in the City

Information on community gardens, boulevard gardening and rooftop greenhouses is available at victoria.ca/growinginthecity.

Small-Scale Commercial Urban Food Production

For more information on growing food to sell, see victoria.ca/foodproduction.

Business Hub

For general questions and comments regarding an urban food production business, contact the Business Hub at bizhub@victoria.ca or 250.361.0629.

Permits and Inspections

Find out if you need a permit by contacting Permits and Inspections at permits@victoria.ca or consult victoria.ca/permits. You can also call one of the following numbers.

- Building Permits: 250.361.0344
- Electrical Permits: 250.361.0343
- Plumbing Permits: 250.361.0345
- Signage Permits: 250.361.0236

Development Services

For more information on these guidelines, contact Development Services at DevelopmentServices@victoria.ca. For more information on Development Permits consult victoria.ca/development-services or contact Development Services at 250.361.0316.

For questions related to applicable zoning regulations, email zoning@victoria.ca or call 250.361.0316.

Minimize Pesticide Use

To minimize pesticide use, tips to prevent garden pests without the use of pesticides and encourage beneficial insects are available at victoria.ca/pesticide_reduction.

Pollinators

For tips and resources to support pollinators, see victoria.ca/pollinators.

Stormwater Management

To learn about stormwater management and the Rainwater Rewards Program, visit victoria.ca/stormwater, email stormwater@victoria.ca or call 250.361.0443.



Local organizations

Compost Education Centre

The Compost Education Centre offers a number of resources and a teaching garden that can help you assess a site, plan for food production and manage the harvest. Visit compost.ca.ca or call 250.386.WORM (9676).

Capital Region Beekeepers' Association

The Capital Region Beekeepers' Association offers resources for new and seasoned beekeepers. Visit capitalregionbeekeepers.ca or contact them at info@capitalregionbeekeepers.ca or 250.900.5787.

LifeCycles Project Society

The LifeCycles Project Society helps people to grow their own food and have better access to fresh local foods. Visit lifecyclesproject.ca or call 250.383.5800.

Haliburton Farm

Haliburton Farm is an incubator farm in Saanich that provides educational opportunities related to small-scale organic farming. Visit haliburtonfarm.org.

Horticulture Centre of the Pacific

The Horticulture Centre of the Pacific offers multiple gardening workshops and access to demonstration gardens. See hcp.ca.

Food Eco District

The Food Eco (FED) District is a restaurant district in downtown Victoria that celebrates food and sustainability. It is also a local non-profit that works with partners in the district and beyond to grow food in the City and promote eating local. See get-fed.com.

Island Pollinator Initiative

The Island Pollinator Initiative is a coalition of groups working to protect pollinators on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. For more information on planting guides, pollinator identification and citizen science, DIY bee homes, teacher resources, bee-friendly farming or becoming a pollinator steward, see islandpollinatorinitiative.ca.

Pollinator Partnership Canada

Pollinator Partnership Canada offers pollinator friendly planting guides tailored to specific ecoregions and other resources to create pollinator habitat. Visit pollinator.org/canada.