

## WINTER GARDENING IN THE MARITIME NORTHWEST

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An essential book for the vegetable gardener both new and old is *Winter Gardening in the Maritime Northwest* by longtime local author, Binda Colebrook. Local sources of gardening information are always best, so this book is perfect for gardeners in Whatcom County! Binda's goal with this book is to help gardeners realize the possibilities of harvesting in the vegetable garden from October until May.

Introductory information on site selection, soil, cover cropping, timing of sowing and seed saving is presented well. A large part of *Winter Gardening* is dedicated to very helpful and sometimes quite detailed descriptions of the main cold weather crops, (e.g. Jerusalem artichokes, corn salad, beets, leeks, kale) their characteristics, planting times, seed sowing/saving tips, best varieties, etc.

There's a small section on cloches and cold frames, and a very thorough and informative section on dealing with plant pests. I really like the little chapter on Self Confidence. It's nice to see a gardening book that is not just "mechanics", but sprinkled with thoughtful and helpful tidbits of reflection as well as an inspiration to experiment.

Overall, I think this is a great introductory book on a topic that's sure to increase in interest as more people realize the possibilities of home winter vegetable gardening. Winter vegetable gardeners of all levels of experience will benefit from this book. The consistent encouragement to the reader to try out things for yourself, which is ultimately the best way to learn, and to learn from experimentation, are helpful reminders that successful gardening, like other aspects of life, is simply being present with other living beings.