



# What's on in the garden

## Fall 2020

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Or <https://www.facebook.com/SeasonsOfFoodVancouver>

### Welcome!

Welcome to the Hastings Community Centre Learning Garden. We are always open and you are always welcome to explore the garden with your families throughout the changing seasons.



Frost on Oregon Grape leaves

We had an early frost this fall and the garden is showing it. Frost is what happens when moisture in the air touches a freezing surface. Take a walk through the garden and see how frost changes the garden. Some plants immediately die or lose their leaves in

the first frost of the year, and some plants, like kale, don't mind the ice much at all.

We have many different kinds of kale in our garden. Kale is related to broccoli and cabbage and has very tough, dark green leaves. You can eat kale raw or cooked, and not only does it survive the frost, some people say that it actually gets sweeter after a frost.



Purple kale in our garden



Fallen hazelnut leaves

Fall is also the time of the year when leaves on trees turn yellow or red and fall off. The green chlorophyll that feeds the plant in spring and summer breaks down as the days get shorter and colder. Chemical changes also happen at the point where the leaf stalk (called the *petiole*)

joins the tree (the *abscission zone*), causing a layer of cells to weaken and the leaf to fall. You may sometimes notice a dead or fallen branch with dead leaves still on it – the tree didn't have the chance to build an *abscission layer* before the branch died.

Even with the colder weather, bugs are still very busy in the garden. Many bugs are garden helpers, as they break down dead leaves, pollinate plants and eat other bugs which are harmful to our plants. If you have a chance, turn over one of our sitting stumps and you will notice worms, millipedes and wood bugs who love the cold, damp wood at the bottom of the stump.



Our sitting stumps