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Easy, Innovative Irrigation and Water Saving Techniques

Water is essential to growing plants, and using good water saving techniques is important during the summer season when drought is most likely.

“Each year most of our plants in Campbell River are short of water during the summer months. Irrigation is of great benefit, however water is a precious resource,” shares Hans Rhenish, a retired plant physiologist, farmer, and teacher for the next Lettuce Grow workshop: *Irrigation and Water Saving Techniques*.

The workshop will take place on Saturday, June 29th from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and will teach techniques to reduce water use, while still ensuring that plants receive all the water they need to thrive.

“Mulch culture (mulching with high carbon organic matter) and drought resistant plants can greatly reduce water consumption. Using micro sprinklers and drip irrigation uses less water than conventional sprinklers,” says Rhenish, adding that “planting and maintaining trees is also a great way to retain moisture and hold to reduce ground level evaporation.”

Another tip Rhenisch recommends is planting a beautiful small plant called English Wild White Clover, also known as landscape clover, which sends its root deep down in the soil and, once established, keeps plants green in the summer. This plant also breaks up the soil and produces nitrogen. According to Rhenisch, lawns seeded into English Wild White Clover need little mowing and stay green in the summer.

Join other interested gardeners at Rhenisch’s innovative and intensive small-scale farm operation in Oyster River. Participants will experience and learn how to keep a lush lawn or vibrant veggie garden with proper irrigation. Hans will touch on natural water and its origin, decommissioned water and its loss, water and health, water and life, both mechanical and natural irrigation, and water conservation. He will address ways to save water using innovative “low tech” garden solutions involving permaculture and natural farming.

For more info on Lettuce Grow workshops or to register visit <http://www.nic.bc.ca/continuingeducation/>.

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