

Spring into EcoFarming

Fri 4 May to Tues 8 May 2018



EcoFarm Spring Fundamentals

- For people, planet, and profit

A five-day intensive, hands-on experience for people wanting to learn how to grow food in harmony with nature, focusing on certified organic agriculture, how to enhance on-farm biodiversity, and relationships between growing practices and human nutrition.

The Spring 5-day course covers the busiest season for Ecofarmers. Students will be immersed in essential learning - holistic farming, local ecology, and ethnobotany.

After the **5-day Spring into EcoFarming** course, students will be able to:

- Grow a variety of food crops using certified organic methods
- Use and understand different composting systems
- Manage soil health effectively for maximizing food quality
- Apply knowledge of local ecology, native plants, and wildlife to enhance both habitats and productivity of farmlands
- Explain benefits of native plants, pollinators, and ecosystems for crops
- Create native pollinator and predator habitats

Bursaries are available for this course. Contact: **ecofarmschool@gmail.com**

Optional internships are available at Haliburton Farm upon course completion.

Course Location: Haliburton Farm, 741 Haliburton Rd, Saanich, BC

EcoFarm Spring Program is now open for registration at:

<https://secure.royalroads.ca/cscourses/ecofarm-spring-fundamentals>



Day 1: EcoFarming & Sustainability

Welcome & Introduction to EcoFarming in the Spring
Farming for Biodiversity on Southern Vancouver Island

An Overview of Food Systems

Organic Farming: Benefits, Principles and Practices

Demonstration: Certified Organic Farming Practices

Day 2: EcoFarm - Integrated Systems

Composting Systems on Haliburton Farm

Soil Health and Nutrition

Hands-on: Soil Testing

Introduction to Native Plant Communities

Hands-on: Ecological Restoration for Farmers

Day 3: The EcoFarm Advantage

Hands-on: Care of Organic Seedlings & Young Plants

Label Logic: What Do Common Terms *Really* Mean?

Certified Organic Farming - Land, Buffers, Records

Demonstration: Certified Organic Farm Audit

Business Planning - Lessons Learned, Michael Nyberg,
New Mountain Farm

Day 4: Communities & Coexistence

Sustainable Water Management: Growing Food in
Harmony with Wetland Ecosystems

Keeping the Soil Food Web Alive, Christina Nikolic, The
Organic Gardener's Pantry

Pollinators Plus Lora Morandin, Pollinator Partnership

Hands-on: Hedgerow Havens for Pollinators & Predators

Day 5: Food is Medicine

Garry Oak Meadow Ecosystems

Plants, Foods, and Medicines of the Saanich Peninsula
John-Bradley Williams (W̱SÁNEĆ and Ahousat Nation)

Econutrition - Impact of Farming Methods on Health

Learning & Networking with Haliburton Farmers

Spring Feast & Wrap-Up