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[“Rock star young farmer” to present small-lot farming workshop](#)

January 20, 2014. 9:24 am • Section: [The Farmgate](#)



PHOTO: Submitted Photo

Jean-Martin Fortier on his 1.5-acre micro-farm.

The tagline for the Young Agrarians' upcoming workshop is almost irresistible.

“Learn six-figure farming for small plots from Jean-Martin Fortier, one of Canada's rock star young farmers,” it reads.

Jean-Martin Fortier is the founder of Les Jardins de la Grelinette, a micro-farm in Eastern Quebec. On 1.5 acres, his farm feeds more than 200 families through a CSA and market stands. For more than a decade, the market garden has provided his only household income, generating close to \$140,000 in annual sales.

Young Agrarians coordinator Sara Dent said the group is hosting Fortier for five B.C. workshops, where he'll discuss how to set up a micro farm and grow mixed vegetables with attention to best practices for weed and pest management, as well as how to farm without a tractor.

“The hook is really how much they can do on a small piece of land,” she said. “We think that could have real applications for people here.”

Dent said young farmers in B.C. face two large challenges: 1) Access to land, and 2) access to start-up capital.

“These workshops will demonstrate how to work on a really small scale and get a good return,” she said.

The workshops are happening in March in Richmond, Kelowna, Cranbrook, Nelson and Victoria. Tickets are \$75, with all proceeds going toward Young Agrarians programming.

Fortier will also be promoting his new book, [The Market Gardener](#).

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WORKSHOP DATES:

RICHMOND

<http://jeanmartinrichmond.brownpapertickets.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/events/1379366725658412>

Friday, March 7, 2014 at Kwantlen Polytechnic University:

KELOWNA

<http://jeanmartinkelowna.brownpapertickets.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/events/780804175267275>

Sunday, March 9, 2014 at Summerhill Winery

CRANBROOK

<http://jeanmartincranbrook.brownpapertickets.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/events/209060019286487>

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at Wildsight

NELSON

<http://jeanmartinnelson.brownpapertickets.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/events/1482352868658042>

Friday, March 14, 2014 at TBA

VICTORIA

<http://jeanmartinvictoria.brownpapertickets.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/events/592793130790734>

Sunday, March 16, 2014 at Fernwood Community Centre

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Do you have a story idea for the Farmgate?

Glenda Luymes is an award-winning Province journalist and farmer's daughter who loves local food.

Get in touch at gluymes@theprovince.com, twitter.com/glendaluymes or on Facebook.

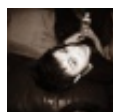
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