



Field Classes

Terrific Teacher!

Did you know that your school is host to one of the first schoolyard market gardens in Canada? The Fresh Roots Farms at David Thompson and Van Tech Secondaries were started in 2013, and since then, we've hosted thousands of students, and grown many tons of food.

We want your students to be able to learn from these amazing spaces, and we offer free Field Classes led by our educators to Van Tech and David Thompson classes. Registration is through our website, <https://freshroots.ca/education/field-classes/>

Do you have an idea of something you'd like to see us add to our Field Class list? Most of our Field Classes came out of teacher requests, and we're happy to customize a program with enough notice.

You're also invited to use the farm spaces for your own teaching! See the Fresh Roots program schedule on page 4 for when we'll be hosting classes from other schools, and the farm etiquette on page 3 for some best practices when out on the farm.

If you have any other questions, you can reach me by email or phone.

See you on the farm!

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September 2023

Field Classes on the Farm

Farm Tour

Grades 8-12

Suggested courses: Any

Program length: 20 minutes-1 hour

Wondering why there's a farm at your school? Take a tour of some of the first schoolyard market gardens in Canada! Tours can be 20 minutes to 1 hour long, and focus on what Fresh Roots is and what we're growing at your school.

Student Team Build

Grades 8-12

Suggested courses: Career Education 8, Physical and Health Education 8-10, Outdoor Education 11, 12

This program includes a brief introduction to Fresh Roots and the many things we do, and plenty of time to work on projects around the farm, from weeding to building. Exact projects will vary depending on the group and the needs of the farm.

Farming Then and Now

Grades 8-9

Suggested courses: ADST 8, 9; Social Studies 8, 9

From the invention of crop rotation to the industrial revolution to the creation of Genetically Modified Organisms, agricultural technology is always changing. See what technologies, modern and ancient, we use on our farms to grow delicious food, and even give some of them a try!

Reproduction on the Farm

Grades 9-11

Suggested courses: Science 9, 10; Life Sciences 11

Plants grow from seeds that develop from flowers pollinated by bees. Except when they are pollinated by wind. Or grow from runners. Or tubers. Or bulbs. Or more! Discover some of the many, many ways plants reproduce sexually and asexually on our farm.

21st Century Farming

Grades 10-12

Suggested courses: Culinary Arts 10, Food Studies 10, Outdoor Education 11&12, Science 10; Life Science 11, Science for Citizens 11, Environmental Science 11, 12, Social Studies 10, Social Justice 12, Urban Studies 12, Human Geography 12

Climate change and biodiversity loss are major threats to our food system, and unjust labour practices in the food sector contribute to poverty and oppression in our communities, but there is a way forward! See how regenerative agriculture and projects like Fresh Roots can improve the food system by supporting both the ecosystem we are part of and the people who grow our food, and help build a truly sustainable food system!

About Field Classes

Field classes are hands-on chances to connect student learning with what's happening on the farm. When possible, farm work and/or tasting will be included.

Field classes are one class period long (unless otherwise stated), and are led by Fresh Roots educators from our Experiential Learning and Youth Empowerment teams. Field classes can be scheduled from March through early November. Our typical growing season is April through October, so if you schedule a visit very early or very late in the year, the farm may not have a lot of activity, and the weather is more likely to be unpleasant.

Booking a Field Class

The best way to book your field class is on our website, <https://freshroots.ca/education/field-classes/>. Please be sure to include as much info about your availability as possible, as well as the start and end times of your class. We request at least two weeks advance notice when possible, though last minute spots may be available.

Typically, we can only book a class once per term. If you have an idea for integrating regular farm visits into your class curriculum (for example, doing farm work one day a week for PE or making regular farm observations part of a biology class), please send us an email and we'll see what we can do!

Inclement Weather

We're not afraid of a little rain and chill! Please remind your students to dress to be outside and get dirty. If weather conditions are, or are predicted to be, dangerous or just plain miserable, a Fresh Roots staff member will be in touch with you as soon as possible to reschedule or cancel.

Farm Etiquette

Farm Etiquette is the set of guidelines for how to use the farm space in a good way. The farm is both a place for education and a working farm that feeds hundreds of people. When you're on the farm, we ask that you care for and respect...

- The Farmers
 - We're here to help you! Follow instructions, and ask for help when you need it.
- The Farm
 - Walk on the paths. If invited into the beds, walk carefully between them. Keep dirt in the beds.
- Plants
 - Touch and smell plants carefully. Ask permission before harvesting or eating.
- Creatures
 - Touch creatures gently. This farm is their home!
- Tools
 - Use tools for their intended purpose. When you are done with a tool, clean it and put it away.
- Each other
 - Listen to one another and lend a hand!



Other Farm Programming

Fall Community Events

Fresh Roots is planning two special events this fall, and you're invited!

Oct 4: Thanksgiving Market at the Italian Cultural Centre

We're bringing in a variety of food producers, artisans, and other amazing vendors to join our regular Wednesday market crew. Stock up on schoolyard farm-grown veggies and other goodies to make your Thanksgiving special! 3:00-7:00pm.

October 28: South Vancouver Harvest Fest at David Thompson

Celebrate the last harvests of the year at this family-friendly event! There will be food, games, music, crafts, and lots of community organizations to connect with. Plus tours of the farm! 11:30-2:30 (times to be confirmed)

Elementary Field Trips

Each spring and fall, we host close to 100 classes from local elementary schools on our farms, most from catchment schools! We typically schedule these visits from 9:30-11:30 or 12:30-2:30, Tuesdays through Fridays, alternating weeks between David Thompson and Van Tech farm sites. While you're always welcome to bring your class out, you may find it easier to do so when there aren't 25 grade 4 students out there as well. Below is an overview of when we'll be at which farm; we don't have every day booked, so feel free to contact us if you'd like to know if a field trip group will be out during your class on a given day!

Week Of...	Field Trips will be at...	On these days...
September 25	Van Tech	Tues-Fri
October 2	David Thompson	Tues-Fri
October 9	Van Tech	Tues-Fri
October 16	David Thompson	Tues-Thurs
October 23	Van Tech	Tues-Fri
October 30	David Thompson	Tues-Thurs