

## Baking and Gardening by Fran Benton

I always thought that the worlds of gardening and pastry making have a lot in common. There are triumphant successes and epic fails in both. I am totally obsessed with making laminated pastry after watching the great Canadian baking show and the great British bake off. My success rate is very low but I do get to eat my successes and the Mill Bay seagulls get to eat my fails. Do you notice how plump those gulls are?

Gardening has the same kinds of successes but the rate is reversed. Mostly I do not have epic garden fails. When I do, I share them with you and I feel so much better about it. My most common fail is just plain clumsiness and lack of attention. I squash pots.

There, I said it and I already feel better about it. I have a small nursery and I am forever leaving alleyways between the rows of pots that are too narrow. All it takes is Mr. Big shouting out 'Its coffee time' for me to dive through the pots, lose balance and flatten some poor innocent fern. Then I have to repot it, apologize profusely, and remind my self to quit being so over enthusiastic about coffee. It's just a bean, come on Fran. Then of course was the time that I harassed fellow gardeners with my case of potato blight. OMG! All my potato plants had gone limp and brown and were drying up.

Umm, hate to admit this but Mr. Big had to say to me "Fran didn't you follow Bill Herring's advice and plant them in early March?" Um, yes I did, so that means, ah the potatoes are ready to be harvested now? Yes, apologies to fellow gardeners, there is no potato blight, no OMG, just someone who sort of forgot to make a note of when she planted things. So fellow readers! I want some interaction with you! Write and tell me of your most spectacular garden fails, especially if they are funny! Spare Cow Press the e-mail volume and just contact me directly at [Fran.Benton@VIU.ca](mailto:Fran.Benton@VIU.ca). I will compile them all, put them in an article, and I promise to keep your identity top secret!

