

THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY

This project is made possible through funding from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.



Mayor Gregor Robertson and Solefood's Michael Ableman open the new orchard.

PHOTO: WARD PERRIN, PNG, THE PROVINCE

A new kind of orchard in the city 🏡

A vacant lot in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside became an orchard. Ten years ago, the city removed a gas station. That empty lot is now an orchard.

Solefood runs the orchard.

The design of the orchard solved two problems.

1. The city still owns the land. City land is valuable. The downtown area is developing and growing. Therefore, the city may need to sell the property someday.

2. You cannot grow food in the soil. The soil is too contaminated from the old gas station.

Solefood created a way to farm without using the soil. They are also ready to move if the land is sold. The orchard can be moved.

Each tree is planted in a large black plastic container. A forklift can move the containers. The soil in the containers is not contaminated.

The orchard will produce fruits like apples, pears, plums, and much more. Vegetables and herbs like carrots, broccoli, basil, oregano, and rosemary will also be grown.

The City of Vancouver is proud to be creating new ways to farm in the city. They are setting an example for other cities. The goal is to grow more food, create jobs and use land that is not being used.

Adapted from *The Province*

(Continued on page 2...)

(...Continued from page 2)

Vocabulary

vacant = empty

removed = took away

orchard = fruit trees

urban = in the city

contaminated = poisoned



Containers hold soil for the trees.
PHOTO: WARD PERRIN, PNG

Links

Go to *The Westcoast Reader* website for links to more information and videos.

www.thewestcoastreader.com



A view of Solefood's new urban orchard.
PHOTO: WARD PERRIN, PNG

Answer key (for exercise on page 3)

1. c
2. a and d
3. c
4. a, c, d, and e

(Continued on page 3...)

(...Continued from page 2)

Check your understanding

Check the correct answer.

1. What was created on a vacant lot?

- a. a highway
- b. a store
- c. an orchard
- d. a park

2. Solefood had to solve 2 problems. What were they? Check 2 answers.

- a. The land was contaminated.
- b. The land was full of rocks.
- c. The neighbors didn't want an orchard.
- d. The land might be sold.

3. Where were the trees planted?

- a. in big boxes
- b. in deep holes
- c. in large plastic containers
- d. in ditches

4. What fruits and vegetables will be grown? Check all correct answers.

- a. apples
- b. mangoes
- c. plums
- d. pears
- e. carrots
- f. coconuts

Answer key on page 2