



Russell Nursery Gardening News

Celebrating 20 years in business

June 2013

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THE ROSES ARE READY!



Cl.
Stormy Weather

[2013 Rose Catalogue](#)

The bare root roses that we potted in February are ready, out for sale and looking great! Not too many blooms yet so have a look at the Rose Catalogue for inspiration.



Jubilee Celebration

Summer Classes

Learn something new this summer! We are pleased to offer the following classes, beginning in mid June. Classes are all free, except for the Vertical Gardening Workshop, and last about an hour. **Classes are limited to two free ones per person.** To reserve, please send an email, with your phone number, to: russellnurseryoffice@telus.net

Colour & Texture with Deer Resistant Perennials - with Ingrid Wood, **Saturday 15 June at 10:00 a.m.** Ingrid has the passion for perennials and many years of gardening experience. Join her for this popular class on perennial summer colour with fewer visits from the dear deer.

Build a Greenhouse in a Day - with Brian Russell **Sunday 16 June at 1:00 p.m.** Are you wondering what's involved in building your own Hall's greenhouse from a kit? This is a hands-on workshop and a small group will assemble the frame and put up the glass and accessories on an 8' by 6' English greenhouse. The class will last most of the afternoon. Bring some knee pads and a 10 mm wrench!

Tips for New Gardeners - with Wendy Eyres, **Saturday 22 June at 10:00 a.m.** Puzzled by pruning? Confused about companion planting? Join Wendy for a wide-ranging talk on the basics of gardening. Designed to get new gardeners of any age headed in the right direction!

Vertical Succulent Container Workshop - with Faye Ford, **Sunday 7 July at 10:00 or Monday 8 July at 10:00** Back by popular demand! Make a succulent garden in a wooden box that can be hung on a wall or a fence. This is a hands-on workshop, where you can create your own piece of living art. The cost is \$50.00 plus HST and includes all plants and materials. Space is limited for this class so please reserve early.



How to Use Grasses in the Garden - with Laurie Acheson, **Saturday 13 July at 10:00 a.m.**

Ornamental grasses can add a whole new dimension to the landscape when used as mass plantings, focal points, edging, groundcover, accents and in containers. Laurie will explain how to create special effects in the garden using a variety of grasses.

Flower Arrangements From Your Garden - with Emily Kerfoot, **Saturday 20 July at 10:00 a.m.**

See your garden from a new perspective by learning which plants make good cut flowers and how to artistically arrange them. The class will cover some of the fundamentals of floral arranging, including techniques for working with fresh flowers and basic design principles. Also, learn how to get creative with what's seasonally available. Emily will demonstrate how to make a hand-tied bouquet and a vase arrangement. This class will be closer to two hours.

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Plant Design Service

Need some help? Just ask!

We are now offering two levels of design help focused on planting plans for either new beds or existing garden areas in need of replanting.

[More information](#)

Quick Links

[Nursery Website](#)

[Greenhouses](#)

[Nursery Notes](#)

[More About Us](#)



Fallen Tree Art Studio & Gallery

(at Russell Nursery)

Open Friday - Sunday
10am - 5pm,
and by chance.

~ Abstract and
mixed media images ~

Featuring work by:

Michele Cullen Russell

Strategic Pruning for Better Bloom by Susan Tice

Improper or badly timed pruning is often the reason that flowering shrubs bloom poorly or not at all. A little insight into a plant's growth and flowering habits can be used to plan how and when to prune. Only a few pieces of key information are presented here, so consult a good pruning book for more detail. **Highly recommended: Christopher Brickell's *Pruning & Training*** (republished in 2011) and **Cass Turnbull's *Guide to Pruning***. These old favourites often suffer from pruning improprieties...Abelia, Quince, Heather, Hydrangeas, Mock Orange, Lilac and Wisteria. [Read on for more...](#)

Five Reasons to Plant a Pine by Wendy Eyres

Conifers are a great addition to any garden. These evergreen shrubs and trees provide solutions to many garden design challenges. I find I have a soft spot for **pin**s - they are suited to most garden styles and make a great companions for Japanese maples and grasses. Five reasons to plant a pine in your garden:

1. You want to add structure So many pines have a unique, architectural quality to them. With their year-round presence, these interesting forms lend character to a garden and help provide a framework for other plants.

2. You want screening. Pines are evergreen and many varieties are taller than they are wide. If you are looking for an alternative to fencing or traditional hedging, you might want to try layering a pine with other plants to provide a living partition from other spaces.

3. You want self-sufficient plants. Pines are not a demanding lot. They are hardy and can withstand some tough growing conditions. As long as they are sited in full sun (at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day) and well-drained soil, they will be great performers in your garden. Pines are a particularly good choice for seaside gardens.

4. You want year-round container planting. Pines grow to a range of sizes including many dwarf varieties - most of which are suitable for growing in containers.

5. You have deer. The deer seem to leave the pines alone. Hip hip hooray!

Some dwarf varieties to consider (up to 5') include *Pinus thunbergii* 'Yatsubusa', *Pinus sylvestris* 'Beacon Hill' (also available as a standard) and *Pinus strobus* 'Nana'. Some taller varieties to consider include *Pinus parviflora* 'Templhof', *Pinus strobus* 'Brevifolia' or *Pinus flexilis* 'Vanderwolf'.



Berries Are The Best! by Faye Ford

For taste and pleasure, picking delicious ripe berries in your own backyard has to be the ultimate treat. The Big Three of Berry Heaven would be strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries. There are many others of course, and aficionados of gooseberries will likely argue with my assessment, but who can argue with a juicy red strawberry? [Read on for practical advice on how to grow better berries...](#)

Need Help?

Have Questions?

We know what we grow, so just ask us. We love talking about plants and and we'll happily share growing tips and secrets of success.

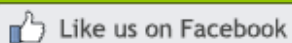
We learn as much from you our customers as you do from us. Don't be shy about sharing your gardening secrets!

Heads Up on Winter Vegetables

For best results, many winter crops should be seeded within the next few weeks. If you are wondering where to put them, consider either interplanting with summer crops or potting up seedlings into 1 gallon pots for growing on until summer crops are finished.

Starts will be available by late July. We'll let you know when they are ready.

To receive timely updates and news:



Join our Mailing List



Grow Bag Frames

Every now and then a gardening idea comes to light that makes so much sense you wonder why no one thought of it before. That's how Brian felt about these **Grow Bag** frames when he saw them at a Garden Centre trade show in the UK last fall. Strong, simple, sturdy, re-useable and well-made (in the UK), they make a lot of sense for vegetable gardening. They are perfect for cucumbers, peas, beans and any climbing or vining plant that requires support. (You can easily fit two tomato plants).



Greenhouse gardeners will appreciate its modest foot print (about 3 feet long by about a foot wide) as it allows the best use of a limited growing area. We have several set up at the nursery, if you would like to see them in action.

Greenhouse Growing in Early Summer: Two Good Tips

1. AIR CIRCULATION is most important. In addition to a roof vent, keep the greenhouse door open, unless it's really windy and stormy. Poor air circulation in a warm environment invites fungal diseases, damping off of seedlings, and nasty bugs like white fly, spider mite and aphids. By keeping the air circulating, absorption of carbon dioxide is improved; CO2 is as essential for plant health as O2 is to human well-being. (Stroking the leaves helps them absorb more CO2!)

2. POLLINATION must be helped along in a greenhouse, as the birds and bees aren't typically flying around from flower to flower. While tomato flowers are self-fertile, they do benefit from a little tap to ensure the pollen falls from the male part of the flower to the female part. Eggplants too have self-fertile flowers and some don't seem to need pollination, but to be sure, give them the same tap treatment. Another method is to brush your thumbnail or a small brush into a flower that has lots of pollen, then rub this onto the green stalk in the centre of other flowers. Cucumbers, squash, and melons all need help, as they have separate male and female flowers on each plant. (Link to our blog post on the website entitled **Birds, Bees, and Summer Squash**) We do have cucumbers and zucchini starts that are parthenocarpic, ie do not need pollination. This is the safest route to take for reliable greenhouse growing of the squash family. Pollination of all fruit is hindered if the greenhouse temperature is above 90 degrees.

HAPPY GREENHOUSE GROWING! WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR SUCCESS STORIES, AND WELCOME ANY TIPS YOU CARE TO SHARE.

Summer Vegetables are Ready to Plant

Tomatoes: Many choices, from grape-size to beefsteak; yellow, orange and red; and Mighty Matos too.

Cucumbers: Pickling, Long English, Lemon Cukes, and Sweet Success too; easy to grow in our climate.

Beans: Get a good start on your bean crop by planting starts rather than seeds.

Eggplant: Yes, you can grow eggplant here if you have lots of heat; if you don't have a greenhouse, try putting in 4' stakes around the eggplant bed, and wrapping clear (not black) plastic around it, creating a mini-hothouse. No need to cover, just keeping the wind off will make it warm and cosy. We even have grafted eggplants, a new way to find success with these Mediterranean morsels.

Squash: Many kinds; green and yellow zucchini, even Partenon, needing no pollination you get full zukes every time, no more of those stunted relics. Winter squash of many shapes and sizes, choose your menu for the whole winter. (No, you don't actually grow them in winter, you eat them them!)

Peppers: These are heat-lovers too, so give them some protection and they will thrive and produce for you; jalapeños, sweet peppers of red, yellow, and gold, and

tiny but hot ones as well. New this year, we have the grafted peppers for bigger and stronger, tougher plants.

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