



Russell Nursery Gardening News

Celebrating 21 years in business

October 2013

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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](#)

Here at the nursery, October is all about trees. It's the best time of year for planting trees as the soil is still warm and fall rains provide plenty (!) of moisture - no extra watering required. The young trees that we have been growing all year are well established and ready to leave home and it's a common sight to see our truck driving down the highway with a rainbow of foliage hanging out the back.

It is said "the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, but the next best time is today". When you sit under a tree today it's because someone planted a tree a long time ago.



National Tree Day was September 25 and Canadians were challenged to plant trees in their neighbourhoods. Collectively, across the country, we helped to plant 13,000 trees! That's a lot of trees. National Tree Day is a celebration of our forests and trees - and their importance to our quality of life. Most people know that trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, but, did you know...? [Read More ...](#)

New to the Nursery This Year...

We are always looking for new plants to offer to our customers and these are some of this year's new trees.

***Acer rubrum* 'Armstrong Gold' (Red Maple)**

Why we like it: Versatile, good in wet areas, great fall colour, good screening

Habit: fast growing, upright narrow form

Foliage: Rich green in summer. Leaves turn gold and orange in the fall.

Size: H: 30-40ft W: 6 -12ft Likes sun.

***Prunus x* 'Snow Goose' (Flowering Cherry)**

Why we like it: Very clean. Resistant to common cherry foliage diseases

Habit: Upright when young, becoming wider with age.

Flowers: Pure white single flowers appear before leaves in spring.

Foliage: Bright green foliage turns orange in fall.

Size: H: to 20ft W: to 20ft

Likes sun, tolerates some shade, some drought and seaside conditions.

***Malus* 'Royal Beauty' (Weeping Crabapple)**

Why we like it: Slow growing, elegant cascading habit

Flowers: Purple buds open to fragrant pink flowers in mid spring followed by

HAT Planting Event

at Adam Kerr Park
in Central Saanich
Sat. October 12, 1:00pm

If you are interested in native plants and habitat restoration, you might like to participate in this event. Learn about creek side restoration and the right way to plant trees and shrubs. Spend an interesting afternoon learning how to ID local plant species. Wear strong shoes and weather appropriate clothing.

Access to Adam Kerr Park is off Central Saanich Rd. just south of Keating.

Open House at the HCP

After 31 months of construction the long awaited opening of the **Couvelier Pavilion** is being held on **Wednesday Oct 9th 1pm-4pm.**

Please join us to see the new state of the art facility and what patience, perseverance and supportive volunteers can produce



505 Quayle Road
250-479-6162



small red fruit.

Foliage: Foliage is brick red in spring, purple green in summer, burgundy in fall

Size: H: 5 to 10ft W: 5 to 10ft Likes sun

'Sargent Tina' (Dwarf Crabapple)

Why we like it: Horizontal pendulous habit, very disease resistant. Excellent patio tree.

Foliage: Deep purple foliage turns bronze/orange/purple in fall.

Flowers: Bright red buds open to white flowers followed by bright red 1/4 inch fruit.

Size: H: to 5ft from graft W: to 5-8ft Likes sun.



Malus 'Sargent Tina'



Deer Damage

Deer and Young Trees

We all know how much harm hungry deer can do, but worse damage can be done by bucks with big antlers. During the rut, (roughly early fall through late winter) the dominant bucks lay down their scent by rubbing their antlers on small trees, stripping off swaths of bark in the process.

Look closely at this photo and you'll see the scar left by such an attack. Small trees can even be snapped in half by an enthusiastic buck.

They can also damage small shrubs and conifers by thrusting their antlers into the centres and twirling them almost like egg beaters, breaking many branches in the process.

The best way to prevent this kind of damage is to keep the deer away with some type of physical barrier. Three or four pieces of rebar or strong wooden stakes driven into the ground around young trees will work, as will a small circle of wire fencing, held in place with a single stake. Plastic tree wrap is easy and quick to use. Netting placed over shrubs or secured by stakes can help protect them from being used as scratching posts. Leave the barriers up all winter.

Beautiful Bulbs

Bulbs are perfect little bundles of promise. It's almost planting time so here are few helpful hints. **For best results**, choose a site with good drainage. Add organic matter to create a loose soil in which the new roots can easily form. **The depth of the holes** should be about 3 times the diameter of the chosen bulbs, i.e. for larger bulbs like daffodils, alliums and tulips 20 cm (8") and for smaller bulbs 10 cm (4"). Add a sprinkle of bulb food into the planting hole. Place bulbs "pointy side up". Some such as anemone can be tricky, if in doubt, place on their side.

Critters: Squirrels are becoming a real problem, and are expert at detecting planted bulbs. Foil them by placing chicken wire on the soil surface to stop them digging - the bulbs will grow right through it. We have recently heard that soaking bulbs in **Bobbex** for about 10 minutes before planting them will deter squirrels. (I will definitely be trying this. Last year ALL my potted bulbs were dug up). Deer love tulips, but aren't so fond of hyacinths, snowdrops, narcissus or crocuses.

Naturalising: Areas that are dry in summer are great for naturalising bulbs such as snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils. Give them a boost for the following year by feeding with a low-nitrogen fertilizer when buds appear in the spring. Cut off spent flower heads and allow foliage to die back naturally so that the goodness goes back to the bulb.

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
Alison Sproule

Fall Studio Tour October 26 & 27

In and around Sidney & the
Peninsula. This self guided
tour features 28 venues with
65 artists.

Information

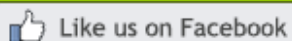
Need Help? Have Questions?

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!

Join our Mailing List

To receive timely updates and
news:



Fall Classes

Classes are free except as noted and last about one hour. **Please note: class size is limited and a reservation is needed. Call (250) 656-0384 or email russellnurseryoffice@telus.net to reserve a space. Please include your phone number if emailing.** There is a limit of two free classes per person.

DESIGN WITH FLOWERING BULBS *with Louis Boutin* If you are looking for fresh inspiration on new ways to use bulbs, this class is a must! Louise will discuss textures, bloom time, containers, scale, placement and best of all COLOUR. Always inspiring, always entertaining!
Saturday, October 05 at 10:00 a.m.

TOOL SHARPENING CLINIC *with Brian Russell* Learn some new skills in this hands-on workshop. Revive and give new life to your dull and tired hand tools. Learn how to clean, maintain and sharpen them. Bring one or two hand tools that need some TLC.
Saturday, October 19 at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

DORMANT SEASON PRUNING OF TREES & SHRUBS *with Noah Alexander.* Noah is an ISA certified arborist and will cover general pruning theory and practice, with demonstrations. The direction of the class will be set by participants' questions..**Cost: \$10.00. The class is repeated on: Saturday, October 26, November 02 and November 09 at 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.**

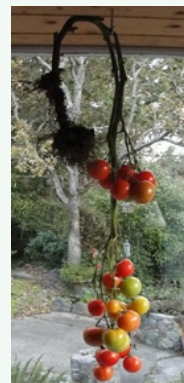
PRUNING JAPANESE MAPLES - All maple pruning classes are full

WREATH MAKING - See our [website](#) for the schedule

It's Time to Bring in the Tomatoes !!

This stellar tomato season is officially over! If yours are still in the ground there is no point in leaving them any longer; nothing will be ripening now, and the risk of late blight is high with all the rain.

Pick all your tomatoes, even the green ones, and ripen them indoors. All they need is warmth, light isn't important. You could just leave them on the kitchen counter and use them as they ripen. Or, you could pull up the whole plant let them ripen on the vine - in a rather unusual position!



The Veggie Garden In Review , SUMMER 2013

by Faye Ford

While the vegetable harvest is still fresh in your mind, fall is a good time to take stock of what grew and what didn't. Thanks to a nice warm summer with lots of sunshine, most of us had a bountiful crop. Here are some of our observations: [Read more...](#)



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