



# Russell Nursery Gardening News

Celebrating 22 years in business

June 2014



**Open daily**  
**9:00am-5:00pm**

**Quick Links**  
[Nursery Website](#)  
[Our Plants](#)  
[Resources](#)  
[Hall's Greenhouses](#)



**Plant Design &  
Consultation Service**

Need some help? Just ask! We can help with planting plans for new beds and/or advise on existing garden beds in need of

## Summer Classes

Most classes are free except for the Succulent Garden workshop but space is limited. Please reserve by [email](#) and include a phone number or call 250-656-0384

### **Colour Your Summer with Perennials - with Ingrid Wood.**

Join Ingrid for this popular class on her favourite perennials for a long-lasting display of summer colour. **Saturday, 14 June at 10:00 AM**

### **Summer Pruning of Flowering Shrubs - with Patti Brown.**

Puzzled by pruning? Patti will discuss and demonstrate the care, maintenance and pruning of spring-blooming shrubs. **Sunday, 15 June at 10:00 AM**

### **Garden Design - Planning for Flow and Continuity- with Lorraine Hamilton.**

Lorraine will discuss the important role that plant shape, colour and repetition play in helping create a successful home garden of any size. **Saturday, 21 June at 10:00 AM**

### **Using Beneficial Insects - with Beth Close.**

Come and see what the buzz is all about! Beneficial insects have an important role in garden health. Beth will discuss the most common insect pests and how to combat them with "beni-bugs". **Saturday, 28 June at 10:00 AM.**

### **Build A Greenhouse in a Day - with Brian Russell.**

Ever wonder what's involved in installing your own aluminum and glass English greenhouse? A small group will assemble an 8 by 6 foot Halls Greenhouse kit in this 4 hour hands-on workshop. Bring your lunch, knee pads and a 10 mm wrench! **Saturday, 5 July from 10 to 2.**

### **Succulent Garden Workshop - with Faye Ford.**

Create your very own, one-of-a-kind hanging succulent garden in a small cedar box that you can hang on your wall or fence like a living piece of garden art. The cost is **\$40.00 plus GST** and includes the frame, plants and all materials.

**Sunday, 20 July at 10:00 AM OR Thursday, 24 July at 10:00 AM.**



### **Choosing and Planting Winter Veggies and Micro Greens - with Faye Ford and Sue Tice**

Join us for an informative session on what you should be doing now in order to have a successful winter vegetable garden. We will also demonstrate how to set up a "micro-greens" garden indoors so that you can have a supply of fresh and

**For Information**

**Russell Nursery** is the authorized BC distributor for Hall's English Greenhouses. Many of the models are set up at the nursery. For more information, please visit our website:

**HallsGreenhousesBC.com**

Halls Greenhouses come in all shapes and sizes and can go into even a small space.



Wall Garden 62



Silverline Sunroom



Popular 86 in a tiny space!.



## **Design Ideas for the Plant Collector** *by Wendy Eyres*



I confess I am a plant collector. I can't help it. I fall in love with plants easily. Over time, my enthusiasm to bring home new plants has created a lot of variety in my garden. Diversity in a garden is good (for many reasons) but too much variety can fly in the face of a well-designed garden. If you find yourself bringing home lots of garden beauties and are wondering how to bring it all together here are some design ideas to try:

**Create a vignette of containers:** a collection of containers that are a similar colour can create a beautiful display - particularly if they are surrounding a hardscape feature like a water fountain. A container vignette is a great way to enjoy unique specimen plants up close.

**Create different garden areas:** if you have a number of garden areas (front garden, side gardens, or areas separated by an internal fence or trellis) it gives you flexibility in where to place different types of plants. Aim for a single 'big' idea in each area for how you want to experience that space and this will help create harmony.

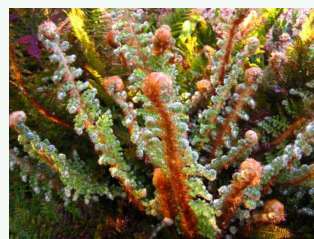
**Focus on a colour scheme:** within a garden area, it is a good idea to focus on a colour scheme. This can bring harmony to a space regardless of the plant material. Don't forget that green is a colour too. A lot of green in the garden allows another colour to shine and also highlights variation in plant texture.

**Create your own 'nursery':** if you have some extra unused space in a part-sun/part-shade location, you can easily hold plants (but don't forget to water them!) until you find the perfect spot for them in the garden. One day you will be looking for something to fill a spot and you can 'shop' from your own private nursery!

**Try it and if it doesn't work, move it:** don't be afraid to move plants. Yes, some plants resent being transplanted (like those with a tap root), but most plants that have fibrous root systems can be easily shifted around. There are better times of the year to transplant (like spring or fall) but with a little bit of research transplanting can be successful.

If you would like advice, come by the nursery and ask us. We are always happy to help you have your best garden!

## **A Fondness for Ferns** *by Laurie Acheson*



Ferns are emotive plants that can conjure up visions of other places and times. When I see ferns in a garden, I'm always reminded of wilder, woodland places and days gone by. Ferns give a garden a sense of permanence, timelessness, of always having been there; which is no wonder, as they have been around for over 300 million years!

Ferns don't seduce us with flowers, but instead offer exquisite fiddleheads and gorgeous texture. They are elegantly diverse, the quintessential shade foliage plant that comes in all shapes and sizes. They are classy plants with a long season of interest, starting with their intricate unfurling fronds in spring.

Their refined fountain shapes make a strong architectural statement that can soften formal designs and add polish to spare sites. Airy fronds move in the breeze and contrast well with smooth walls, water features and stone. Ferns have a regular, reliable growth habit and won't outgrow their assigned space very quickly, which makes them easy to place and partner with other plants. In addition to all of these wonderful attributes, ferns are rarely bothered by pests, diseases and deer!



Hexagonal - A nice feature



Silverline Conservatory  
at the HCP

## Roses for 2015



'Royal Jubilee'

New From David Austin

We are always working ahead by at least a season or two, and will be placing our rose orders for 2015 soon. Now is the time to ask us about special orders. (Minimum of 5 per variety, unless it is one that we normally stock). We stock roses from David Austin, Weeks and PanAmerican.



'Anna's Promise'.

New From Weeks Roses  
Downton Abbey Collection

**Join our mailing list**  
**to receive timely**  
**updates and news on:**

- \*New arrivals
- \* Maintenance & pruning reminders
- \*Class schedules
- \*Notice of our fall sale

Ferns are easy to grow, adaptable and low maintenance. Although the ideal site for a fern is in dappled shade with consistent moisture in well drained soil, they will also grow in full to part shade, and some will even take sun. There are even ferns for difficult places like dry shade, drier sun, wet boggy areas, and clay slopes. [READ ON...](#)



## "Lavender Blue, dilly dilly....." by Faye Ford

That old nursery rhyme doesn't begin to describe the versatility of lavender, as it can be blue, purple, white, pink, or even yellow! The many varieties of lavender provide bloom from spring into fall, with delight for the eyes, nose, and ears; yes, the buzzing of bees is yet another reason to grow these superb beauties of the summer garden.

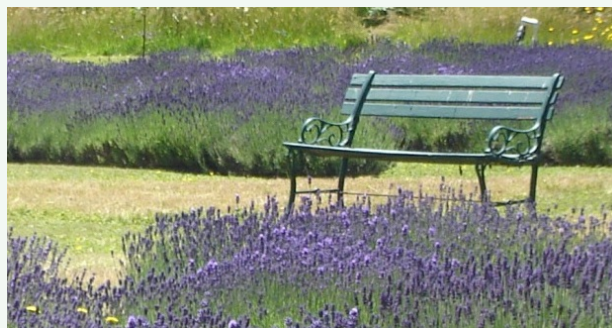
**Spanish Lavender** (*Lavandula stoechas*) is the first to bloom, bringing colour to the late spring garden. Sometimes called French Lavender due to the fact that it grows wild in France, this species glows with purple flowers shaped like a pineapple with wings on top. The two main varieties grown in this area are 'Anouk', compact with grey foliage, and 'Otto Quast', taller with greener leaves. Spanish lavender is hardy in our climate, though not as tough as the English.

**French Lavender** (*Lavandula dentata*) blooms with Spanish Lavender, but is not reliably hardy and not often found here. A large plant, with greyish, serrated leaves, and paler flowers, it does best if kept to no more than 3' tall. 'Goodwin Creek' while a little smaller than the species, has darker flowers on long wands.

**English Lavender** (*Lavandula angustifolia*) blooms next, and is hardy down to zone 5. It is the classic lavender with strong scent and deep rich colour. 'Hidcote' has the darkest purple flowers, but is usually smaller than 'Munstead', at around 18". By the way, 'Munstead' was named for Munstead Woods, home of the well-loved garden designer Gertrude Jekyll. 'Hidcote Pink' and 'Jean Davis' are the pink varieties of English lavender, but we haven't seen them available in recent years.

**Lavandin** (*Lavandula x intermedia*) is a hybrid between *L. angustifolia* and *L. latifolia*. In botanical Latin, the x means it is a cross between two species, and the intermedia refers to its intermediate nature, having qualities of each parent. The Lavandins are, like most hybrids, extremely vigorous and productive, with good size, lots of bloom, and fantastic fragrance. The Lavandins are very rich in the aromatic oil that is used for cosmetics and aromatherapy.

Best known varieties are 'Grosso' and 'Provence', both with very long stems, up to 3' in height. 'Grosso' has a darker flower. The Lavandins bloom as the English ones are finishing their show, and are the most drought tolerant of all lavenders.



There is nothing quite so enchanting as a mass of lavender swaying in the breeze, whatever your personal choice of variety may be.

## Finding New Inspiration by Susan Tice

The gardens at **Government House** have been a favourite haunt of mine for over 20 years. It has been fascinating to see how they have changed and developed and there is always something interesting to see. Last week I was there for the first time this year and I was absolutely amazed and inspired by how beautiful and varied the gardens have become. There are a lot of beautiful gardens around, but what makes these stand out is that they are over run by deer and still look



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**Fallen Tree Art Studio**  
(at Russell Nursery)

**Open by Appointment  
& by Chance**

*~ Abstract and  
mixed media images ~*

**Featuring work by:  
Michele Cullen Russell  
and Alison Sproule**

\* \* \* \*



wonderful.

There is endless debate over what the deer will and won't eat, but here is living proof that it is possible to have both resident deer and a lovely garden. The rose gardens are newly fenced and the Japanese maples are netted, but pretty much everything else is out in the open.

From the sunny, southern terraces to the lush, shady borders adjacent to Rockland Avenue, the plantings are masterful and beautifully maintained, thanks to the tireless efforts of Valerie Murray and the Friends of Government House.

If you are feeling like the deer make it impossible to have a nice garden, a walk at Government House is sure to give you a fresh perspective and new inspiration!



## **Add a Touch of Japan to Your Garden** *by Faye Ford*

I'm sitting in the Narita airport, having spent some time here in Tokyo visiting my son and his family. Before me sits my traditional parting meal at the airport: Onigiri, which are delicious balls of rice with assorted fillings, wrapped in Nori (seaweed). Beverage of choice is Asahi beer, just the thing to relax for the 9-hour flight home.

Last year at this time I wrote an article for our website called '***Japan through the eyes of a Canadian Gardener***', which was my observations on gardens and the beauty of this land.

This time, I've been paying attention to the small details that seem to say 'Japan' in any language, any garden. A formal Japanese garden is not only very difficult to build; it's expensive and not practical in most settings in Canada. By incorporating just a few small details, your garden will have what I call a '**Japanesque**' look.

[READ ON...](#)



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