



Russell Nursery Gardening News

Celebrating 22 years in business

November 2014



Open daily
9:00am - 4:30pm

Last day this year:
Mon. December 22nd.

Re-opening:
Sunday, February 01,
2015

We will be checking email
and phone messages
during the time we're
closed.

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Succulent Art

Season's Greetings!

It's always a bit of a shock to come to the realization that we are nearing the end of another year, especially when winter seems so far off. Many plants are still holding their leaves, some haven't even turned colour yet and others have not only lost their old leaves but are already sprouting new foliage. All kinds of things from *Bergenia* to *Choisya* are in bloom and it's all a bit strange. But, believe it or not, we *are* at the end of the year and that means it's time to turn our thoughts to the holiday season.



*New foliage on Garry
Oaks...in November!*

Christmas is all about traditions and here at the nursery, traditions revolve around the change of seasons. There is a rhythm to the years and everything has its time. In late November and December it's traditional for all the staff to work on making wreaths and creative table arrangements and containers for inside and out. The fire is lit and the welcoming aroma of mulled cider is in the air.

It's also a tradition for many of you to visit us in December to make a wreath, or pick out a tree and we look forward to seeing you. Thank you all for your continued interest and support. From all of us to all of you - **Happy Holidays!**

Hoping for Holly and Cedar

and... As always, we need a **LOT** of greenery, especially holly, cedar and fir for classes and other projects. ***If you are having hedges or shrubs pruned, we'll take the clippings off your hands.*** If it's convenient, please drop off cut branches at the nursery anytime during business hours. If it's



These charming little arrangements can be kept indoors or out and would make an interesting gift



Frames are available to create a hanging succulent garden. A gift certificate for a 'how to' class would be something to look forward to in the new year.

RN Hot Spiced Cider

A flexible recipe that can be made for as few or as many servings as needed!

Mix together in a suitably sized pot:

3 parts apple juice to 1 part cranberry juice

A couple of cinnamon sticks
A few cloves and allspice berries wrapped in cheesecloth

Bring to a soft boil, turn down the heat and simmer for a couple of hours.

Serve warm with ginger snaps.

Enjoy!



Wreaths of all sizes!

not, or there's a lot of material **please call 250-656-0384** and we'll come and get it. Also needed are branches with variegated foliage, berries or coloured stems.

The Christmas Trees arrived today and they are fresh and beautiful. We have Douglas fir, grand fir and a few Scotch pines in a wide range of sizes and prices.

Unfortunately, due to the long, dry summer there are no noble firs available this year.

Wreaths & Greens To Go Time is a luxury at this time of year, and if you don't have enough of it to get creative, we have lots of beautiful wreaths, centrepieces and colourful containers all ready to go. We can do custom orders too.

If you have the time, you'll find what you need for DIY decorating right here - wire frames, moss, greens and all the trimmings.



Arrangements are all made by our talented staff

Seasonal Classes

Wreaths: Coming to the nursery for a wreath making class has become such a tradition for many of our customers, that **they are almost sold out.** However, we have just added a new class on **Sunday, December 14 at 10:00** so please call 250-656-0384 to reserve a space.



A reminder to everyone coming for classes to please bring some hand pruners.

Centrepieces: For something a little different, try your hand at creating a lovely, long lasting natural table arrangement for a hall or coffee table or dining room.

Cost is \$40 + GST and includes a container, Oasis, candle, greens and decorations. **Please bring your pruners.**

Class dates:

Sunday, December 14 at 1:00 p.m

Monday, December 15 at 1:00 p.m.

Gift Certificates and other Goodies A Russell Nursery gift certificate is more than just an easy answer to the problem of what to get a gardener for Christmas. It is also the source of pleasurable anticipation as its use is contemplated! GC's come in any denomination and include a free gift box.

If you'd prefer to give a gift with more substance, you'll find some ideas in our garden shop. Gloves, pruning tools, bird feeders, garden gadgets and seed trays would all be good options. Plants make great gifts too!

Good Reasons to Escape to the Garden

If all the holiday cheer gets to be too much you might need an excuse to get away from it all. We're happy to oblige...

The rhododendrons need fertilizing: They will appreciate a light feeding to get them through the winter. Use ½ the amount you would use



Russell Nursery is the authorized dealer for Hall's Greenhouses in BC. If there is a greenhouse on your wish list check out

HallsGreenhousesBC.com



Did you know...

that the **Christmas tree** tradition as we know it dates back to 1851?

That's when a farmer from the Catskills hauled two sleds of cut evergreen trees into New York city and sold them all.

Christmas tree farms began in the 1930's. During the Depression, nurserymen couldn't sell their evergreens for landscaping, so they cut them for Christmas trees.



Plant Design Service

Winter is for dreaming and planning and pondering the possibilities. If you aren't sure how to get started, we can help! Come spring, call us come in or send us an email.

during the growing season. While you're at it camellias, skimmias and fatsias would appreciate some too.



Hellebore with old foliage

The hellebores need tidying: Cut away the **old foliage** to better see the flowers and improve the health of hellebores, especially the orientalis types. Old foliage attracts whitefly and mould.

Must check the watering: **Foundation plantings and beds** under large evergreen trees can be very dry, even if there has been a lot of rain. Plants in dry soils have less resistance to

cold weather.



The same plant after foliage was cut away (H. 'Honey Hill Joy')

The roses need cleaning up: **Break the disease cycle** by removing all the old leaves from roses. Clean up any fallen leaves from the ground and put them in the garbage. Cut back long whippy growth to avoid wind damage.

Just have a few more bulbs to plant: It's not too late to plant bulbs, and as it happens we still have a pretty good selection on hand. **And they are 50% off.**

Have to see to the lawnmower: It's smart to **drain the fuel** from equipment such as lawnmowers and leaf blowers before they sit idle all winter. You'll be WAY ahead of the game if you get them serviced and sharpened too. Likewise for cleaning, sharpening and oiling hand tools.

Lots of pruning to do: The question is to prune or not to prune??

A mild winter day is a great time to get out and do some pruning of trees and shrubs. But don't go crazy. Leave the spring flowering shrubs until after they have finished blooming. The following are good candidates for winter pruning:

Fruit trees: Apple and pear trees are done in early to mid-winter and cherries and plums in late winter. For healthier trees and better fruit apply dormant spray after pruning.

Trees and Japanese maples: Remove damaged or dead branches, crossing branches and those growing towards the centre of the tree. Sometimes a little thinning to open up a canopy can do wonders for the garden below by increasing the light and improving air circulation. **Only do what you can safely reach! Call in the pros for the dangerous jobs,** i.e. anything that requires a ladder and a chain saw over your head!

Cut back summer flowering shrubs in late Feb or early March, for example: Buddleia, Spiraea, Hibiscus, Lavatera, English Lavender. **Also:** wisteria, kiwi and grapes.



Planning for a 12 Month Harvest

with *Linda Gilkeson PhD.*

Saturday, March 7, 9:30 a.m. at Russell Nursery.


Linda Gilkeson is well known as an entomologist, a teacher, a consultant and a writer. But it's her passion for growing food that inspires so many of us to try to follow in her footsteps. Linda can harvest something fresh from the garden every day of the year! How does she do it? It starts with the planning.

It's hard to imagine planting for winter when it's still spring, but that's when it starts. What is 'Carrot Day'? Why is it wasted opportunity to plant traditional cover crops? Get the answers to these questions and more!

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- *New arrivals
- *Seasonal maintenance & pruning reminders
- *Class information & schedules
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Learn how to manage your garden to maximize production and to grow fresh food all year long.

This will be a popular class and space is limited, so please reserve your space by phone: 250-656-0384 or **email**. (be sure to include your phone number). The talk will last about 1 1/2 hours.

Cost: \$15.00 Payable at the door.

Sharpen Your Shovels, it's Time to Transplant!

by *Brian Russell*



In theory you can move almost anything!

Established woody plants (trees, shrubs and conifers) are best moved when they are fully dormant. In our climate, this means November, December, January or early February.

In theory you can move just about anything if you have enough determination, manpower (or womanpower!) and the right equipment.

The tree in this photo is an *Acer palmatum* 'Shishigashira' that has been in our roadside planting for almost 25 years. It has long been too big for the space and rather than cut it down we decided to try to move it. It was a big job that required several people, a tractor and a sturdy trailer. Hopefully it will survive the move and settle

in to its new home in the garden of one of our staff.

It's important (and a lot easier) to use a sharp shovel or spade because you need to sever the roots cleanly. A dull edge will leave a lot of damaged, torn roots, making it much harder for the plant to re-root. [READ ON...](#)



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