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Nursery News October 2016

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Delightful Daffodils

There is something romantic, even poetic, about daffodils that has inspired many to sing their praises. In his poem '**Daffodils**', **William Wordsworth** speaks of coming upon "A host of golden daffodils...fluttering and dancing in the breeze" and of how his "heart with pleasure fills, and dances with the daffodils". Daffodils represent spring and rebirth and brighter days to come. Even here, where winter is short and mild, the sight of the first daffodil warms the heart.



'Velocity' naturalizes well

Daffodils are essentially wild flowers and look their best in a natural setting. No planting in rows like soldiers! For the best effect, plant them in loose groupings of a dozen or more bulbs. Place them in the middle or towards the back of garden beds, ideally around or under deciduous shrubs.

Daffodils, and bulbs in general, are more likely to come back if they are planted where the bulb foliage can be left to die down. Plant them deeply to encourage naturalizing - at least 8 inches and space them 6 inches apart so they have room to multiply.

Daffodils grow well in pots. Many are fragrant and last well as cut flowers. They are reliably deer resistant, but more than anything they are happy!

A.A. Milne, also inspired by daffodils, wrote: "A house with daffodils in it is a house lit up, whether or not the sun be shining outside. Daffodils

in a green bowl - and let it snow if it will."



A beautiful sight on dull day

Alliums for Every Garden

We are all familiar with alliums - onions are alliums, chives are alliums and leeks are alliums. They are among the oldest cultivated bulbs in the world, and found in nearly every global cuisine.

Ornamental alliums however, are relatively new to the landscape, being developed in Holland around the middle of the 19th century. They are sold along with the spring bulbs and like them, are planted in the fall.

Ranging in size from ping pong ball to larger than a basketball, globe-shaped allium flowers add sophistication, architectural interest and colour for months, rising elegantly on leafless stems above strappy foliage. They bridge the gap between spring and summer flowers, and after their bloom is spent, alliums offer even more with their **outstanding seed heads**.

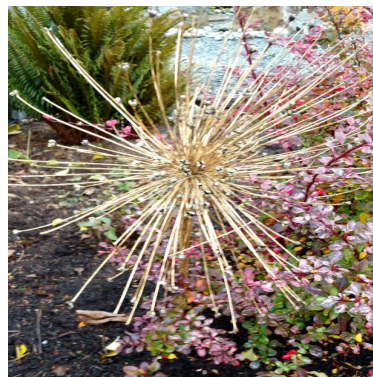
Many new varieties have been introduced in the last decade, and oh, what a wonder they are! Easy to tuck into even small spaces, there really is one for every garden. [Read on for more](#)



Drumstick Allium



Allium 'Hair'



A.schubertii seedhead

True Patriot Love... We are predicting a sea of red and white next year to celebrate the 150th anniversary of our great country.



Start the year with a big display of red and white bulbs. Tulips, narcissus, anemones and more. Choose a ready made combination or create one of your own.



Crazy for Conifers

Garden conifers come in a rainbow of year-round colour. Many people think green when they think of conifers, but aside from many shades of green they also come in shades of yellow, orange, blue, lavender and even rusty brown. Many change colour through the seasons, and still others have decorative cones or seed bearing fruits.

Their use in the landscape is limited only by your imagination. The strong silhouette of many compact, slow growing conifers can accent a corner of a garden bed, frame a doorway, or add winter structure to perennial or annual beds. They are excellent foundation plants, and mix well with deciduous shrubs. Best of all, conifers are very low maintenance and many are drought tolerant and deer resistant. Large growing conifers such as Serbian spruce make beautiful specimen trees in the lawn, but there are many dwarf and miniature types for the rock garden or containers.

We have just received a large shipment of conifers and have our best selection of the year. We hope you'll drop in to take a look the next time you're in the area.



There's lots to love about conifers

Top Tips for Growing Good Garlic

- **"Plant later in the fall, rather than earlier,** to avoid Blue Mold Rot. This is one of the most common fungus diseases of stored garlic and onions. It overwinters on infected cloves, not in the soil, and it infects in warm 22-25C (72-77F), dry conditions. If you plant healthy garlic cloves (inspect each carefully for signs of the characteristic blue-green mold) and plant after the soil has become cold and wet (later October) there is little likelihood of infection. Apparently all you procrastinating gardeners have been doing yourselves a favour!"

Linda Gilkeson

- Plant in an area that gets full sun and has good drainage
- Carefully break apart bulbs just before planting and plant only the biggest cloves. Bigger is definitely better.
- Don't peel off the papery covering. It helps protect the clove in the soil
- Plant pointed side up, about 8 inches apart and between rows. Don't plant too deep. Cover with only 1-2 inches of soil
- Plant fresh seed garlic. Don't plant grocery store garlic - it may have been treated with preservatives.
- Water in well and mulch beds with leaves or straw for the winter.
- Fertilize when spring growth starts.
- Water as needed, but stop about 2 weeks before harvest.



There's sprouting broccoli under all that snow!

A Few Vegetable Garden 'To dos'

If you are admiring your nicely established winter crops, then it's worth the little bit of time it takes now to make sure everything stays healthy throughout the cold season. It's been a while since we've seen snow, but who knows what this winter will bring. Mulching and some staking are needed to protect winter crops from the elements. [Click here to find out how.](#)

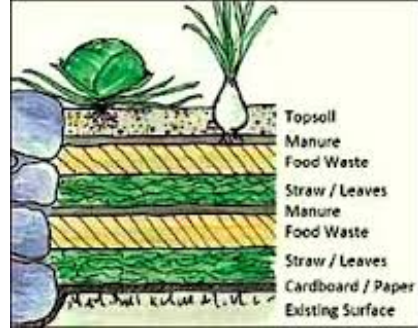
Need more Growing Space?

To get off to a quick start in building rich, weed-free soil with excellent tilth, organic matter as well as 'real dirt', try a making a Lasagna Garden!

What's that? Simply put, it's building a garden bed the same way you would a dish of lasagna, by layering lots of good ingredients and then

letting them cook until the flavours blend together.

If you start now, you'll have a lush and fertile garden ready to plant by spring. Fall is the very best time to start your **Lasagna Garden**, so for more information please [click through](#) to our website.



The [2017 Rose Catalog](#) is now on our website. If you are thinking of planting roses next year have a look. Plant either bare root in February/March or potted in late May.

Availability is limited and its a good idea to pre-order by email.
Cl. Tropical Lightning
New from Weeks Roses

Thinking about a greenhouse for next spring? Don't leave it until the last minute!



Russell Nursery is the authorized BC distributor for **Halls English Greenhouses**. These quality greenhouses are available in a variety of sizes and models and several are set up at the nursery. For information please visit our [website](#).

A **Halls Greenhouse Rep** will be pleased to visit your property for a free on-site consultation. We are currently booking appointments for some of the Gulf Islands on the following dates: **Salt Spring** Tues. Oct. 11th, **Pender** Wed. Oct.12, **Mayne** Thurs. Oct.13, **Galiano** Fri. Oct.14th.

If you are in the **Victoria** area dates are flexible and at your convenience.

To make an appointment, please call 250-656-0384 or email russellnursery@telus.net



October harvest from the greenhouse

Fall Classes

Classes are free except as noted and usually last about an hour. Register by [email](#) ****Please include your phone number**** or by phone 250-656-0384

Winter Pruning of Trees and Shrubs - with Noah Alexander

Puzzled by pruning? These workshops cover general pruning theory and

practice, with demonstrations. Noah is a professional arbourist who can answer all your pruning questions. Cost: **\$10.00** plus GST. **The same class will be on Saturday, October 29, November 05 and November 12 at 10:00 OR 1:00**

Wreath Making and Holiday Containers

Some dates are already full, so if you are planning to come with a group register soon! **Click for [Dates & Times](#)**



Call us at 250-656-0384

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