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## Nursery News November 2016

Open Daily 9:00 - 4:30  
Closing for the season December 22  
Re-opening February 01, 2017

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## Seasonal Things

One of the great things about working here at Russell Nursery is the variety of jobs we do. Everything has its time and although the work is sometimes repetitive, by the time we're really tired of doing something, it's done and a year away from coming back onto the to-do list!

Come November, we're working on the lead-up to Christmas. We always look forward to this time of year. The nursery is transformed as we decorate the shop and get ready for classes and wreath making. We love to visit with you, our customers, and help you choose the perfect wreath for your door or just the right tree.

It's been a good year and it wouldn't be possible without your support. We thank you all very much.



*Unique wreaths*

**Wreaths & Centrepieces** We offer a great selection of unique wreaths and arrangements for both indoors and out, all made by our talented staff. Custom orders welcome.

If you like to make your own, you'll find everything you need for DIY decorating right here - wire frames, moss, bundles of greens and all the trimmings.

**Hoping for Holly** If you are having hedges or shrubs pruned, please keep us in mind. We need LOTS of Cedar, Fir, Holly, Spruce and other greenery, (please NO Leyland cypress). We would also appreciate branches with colourful bark, berries or variegated foliage.

If it is convenient, please bring clippings to the nursery. If it's not, or if

there is a lot of material, please call 250-656-0384 and we can pick it up.

**Christmas Trees** of all sizes will be here by next weekend (some here now), all the way from up Island. Nothing says fresh like Island grown! Come pay us a visit and pick out the perfect tree. Afterwards, warm up by the fire with a cup of our famous spiced cider.



## Workshops

**Wreaths:** Wreath classes are full, but we always get a few cancellations. If you'd like to come to a class and haven't yet signed up, please contact us and we can let you know if any spots become available.

**Holiday Arrangements:** Create a beautiful, long lasting table arrangement for a hall or coffee table, dining room or mantle.

**Class times:** Wed. Dec.14 at 10:00, Sat. Dec.17 at 10:00 (full) or 1:00

Cost for classes is \$40 + GST and includes all materials.

**Call 250-656-0384 to reserve a space.**



**A Reminder:** Please bring hand pruners to these classes. We have some loaners if you don't have any.

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## The Joy of Creating a New Veggie Bed *by Faye*

**Has your appetite for growing your own food expanded as mine has?** With the warmer weather these past few summers, harvests have been plentiful and deliciously sweet, but planting space had not kept up with my lust for more. I wanted more of what I've already grown, and more new crops as well.

**Fall is a good time of year to take stock of your garden and decide if it's meeting your needs.** If not, make it happen! Building a new raised bed isn't complicated, it's simply a frame placed atop unused, weedy ground or even on top of lawn grass, in the sunniest spot you have. Cedar is the best material for this, but rocks would work, or even just a piled mound is fine. Don't use pressure-treated wood. It should be at least 12 inches tall, with the bed no wider than 4 feet so you can reach from either side to weed and harvest. Once this is done, the rest is easy, fun and so rewarding.

**'Lasagna Gardening'** was first coined in a book of that name by Patricia

Lanza, and has become the natural way to build your own soil that is weed free, organic, with good tilth and rich in nutrients. It is moisture retentive and needs less fertilizer. Also called **sheet composting**, it's simply a matter of layering organic materials which will 'cook' down to create the best soil you have ever crumbled between your fingers.

[Click for the 'Recipe'](#)



*The finest ingredients*



*Building layers*



*Ready to cook!*

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## **A Better Looking Winter Garden** *by Sue*

I was thinking about interesting winter gardens when my favourite gardening blog, **The Middle Sized Garden**, landed in my mailbox. The topic? **10 Ways to Improve the Winter Garden**. I couldn't have said it better myself! Follow the link below for some fresh ideas to make your garden shine in the winter.

[The Middle Sized Garden](#)





## **Mason Bee Alert** *by Faye*

I recently opened up my bee houses (I have two, one above the other) and the house on the top had leaked rain water. The cocoons are mouldy, and a real mess, but the house on the bottom was nice and dry and the cocoons are fine. If your houses are still outside you should put them into a shed or other dry, but cold place.

The bees can be washed anytime and stored until spring. Washed?? Yes, washed! Mites are a big problem for mason bees and washing the bees and cleaning the houses helps to control them.



*Uncleaned cocoons in the tray*



*Washed cocoons drying off*

[Click](#) through to our website to learn how to wash your bees and for useful information about their care and life cycle.

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Dreaming of a greenhouse for Christmas? **Halls English Greenhouses** are known for their quality and durability and come in a variety of sizes. **Russell Nursery is the BC distributor for Halls** and many of the models are set up at the nursery. For information, please visit our [website](#)

**If you aren't sure which one is right for you, call us to arrange a free in home consultation. 250-656-0384**

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**Happy Holidays from all of us to all of you!**



Call us at 250-656-0384

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