



1370 Wain Road  
North Saanich, BC V8L 5V1  
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## Nursery News August 2017

Open Daily 9:00 - 5:00

Closed BC Day



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### Summer at Russell Nursery

The nursery is always a beautiful and inspiring place, but it is really special in the summer when it's awash with the colour of masses of perennials and hydrangeas in full bloom.

The spring potted trees and shrubs are growing strongly and the newly arrived Japanese maples from New Zealand are starting to leaf out. It's a very satisfying time of year.

If your garden is looking a little dull right now, come and be inspired. Let us help you choose the best plants for your little patch of

paradise!

*If you are thinking of planting trees in the fall, it's a great time check them out. We can tag your favourites and look after them until you're ready to plant.*

### Plants We Love

#### Hydrangea 'Bombshell'

**Why We Love It:** This is one of the best small white hydrangeas (to a size of 3` x 3` ). It is a compact shrub that blooms from early summer through to first frost.

**Where to Use It:** Use this hydrangea for dramatic effect in a mass planting or in a

container. 'Bombshell' prefers partial shade (protect from hot afternoon sun) but will tolerate more sun if there is adequate moisture.

**How to take Care of It:** Ensure this plant has adequate moisture and good drainage. Lightly prune in late spring.

### **Rudbeckia 'Little Goldstar'**

**Why We Love it:** This compact 'Black Eyed Susan' packs a big punch with loads of blooms on sturdy stems.

**Where To Use It:** Great in borders, mass plantings or containers. It's a natural foil for grasses such as Pennisetum 'Little Bunny'.

**How to Take Care of It:** Grow in full sun with average water. Cut down old stems in fall or spring.

### **Cryptomeria 'Little Diamond'**

**Why We Love It:** Little Diamond Cryptomeria is a gorgeous evergreen conifer with a lot of personality. It is slow growing (up to about 2'tall by 3' wide in many years) and has an overall compact rounded shape with fun twisty bright green foliage.

**Where to Use It:** This plant is a great addition to a rock garden or used in a container. Place this cryptomeria in full sun or partial shade. Pairs well with prostranthera.

**How to take Care of It:** Ensure this plant has adequate moisture and good drainage. There is no need to prune this lovely dwarf conifer.



*Rudbeckia fulgida*  
'Little Goldstar'



*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Bombshell'



*Cryptomeria japonica*  
'Little Diamond'

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## **Winter Veggies Are Here**

Winter Crops are vegetables that you harvest during the fall and winter. It's too late for seed, but the perfect time to transplant seedlings. They need to be full grown by Halloween, as they stop growing once the weather gets frosty. Winter crops include Kale, Chard, Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and Cabbage. ***Transplants of all of these are available now***

Overwintering crops are harvested in spring and enter winter as "teenagers" that won't finish growing until spring. Plants such as Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Broad Beans (direct seed in October), Garlic (bulbs available in September), and late-planted Spinach fall into this category.

It is the right time to seed Mustards, Asian greens, Cilantro, Corn Salad, Lettuce, Radish and Scallions. Wait until mid to late August to seed Spinach.

*\*\*Carrots, beets and leeks also count as winter crops, but carrots and beets need to be seeded by early July and leeks in early spring, so remember that for next year!*



*Harvested last January*

**No space right now? Try this...**

\*Intersperse small transplants with summer crops which will be over by the time the new ones grow.

\*Pot up veggie starts into 1 gallon pots to develop large root systems, then transplant into the garden when the summer crops are done.

\*Sow seeds for things such as Mache or Lettuce under large squash leaves, which give them protection from the hot sun.

**\*\*Remember to feed transplanted starts** with liquid fish, seaweed or vegetable fertilizer.



*Fuchsia 'Checkerboard'*

**Hardier Hardy Fuchsias** There is always something new to learn in the plant world. Just recently we had a good lesson in planting fuchsias from our friend Robin Dening. It turns out that unlike almost every other plant we can name, *hardy fuchsias should be planted at least 3 to 4 inches deep*. It increases their hardiness significantly, which could be important if we have too many more winters like the last one. It also increases their flower power and general vigor. Who knew??

**Watch the Water** No one wants to waste water and sometimes it's hard to tell how much water is, or isn't, needed. *How can you tell if you are watering enough, or too much? Consider this...*

\*New plants need more water than established ones

\*Plants in shallow soils need more water than those in deep soils

\*Soils exposed to the sun dry out faster than those in shaded areas.

\*Drought tolerant and native plants *aren't* drought tolerant until they have established a good root system; more water is needed the first year or two.

\*Hanging baskets and containers need more water as they mature and fill in.

\*Slow, deep watering is always better.

\*Compacted soils shed water rather than absorbing it. Lightly cultivate garden beds to allow water to percolate deeper.

The only way to tell what is going on underground is to dig around a little. The soil surface may look wet, but could be dry as dust an inch or two down. Often there is one plant in a bed that wilts before all the others. If it's fine, then you know that everything else is too!

Sprinkler systems usually need to be seasonally adjusted . Longer and/or more frequent watering is needed in the summer than in the spring. Check the system occasionally when it's running and look for problems. For example, plants near sprinkler heads may be blocking spray patterns. Connections can come loose and emitters can clog.

## Useful Additions to the Tool Shed



Mixing and applying fertilizer can be a lot of work and take up a lot of time. This **siphon mixer** allows you to water and fertilize at the same time! Put one end in a bucket of fertilizer solution and attach the other to your hose at the faucet. Water as usual. Easy as that.



This is no ordinary watering nozzle. It also quickly converts to a sprinkler. Just open up the 'wings' on the handle of this 2 in 1 nozzle and turn the dial to one of the sprinkler options.



Anyone who has struggled with a stiff valve on a watering wand or hose nozzle will appreciate the ease of use of this **one touch wand**.

We use them all over the nursery and wouldn't be without them. It's so easy to turn them on and off and control the flow of water.



**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](http://www.russellnursery.com).



Call us at 250-656-0384

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