

1370 Wain Road North Saanich, BC V8L 5V1 250-656-0384

Nursery News October 2017 Closed November 11 For Remembrance Day

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Consider a Pine

Here at Russell Nursery we are often asked for plant ideas for challenging situations. A common request is for a plant that looks great year-round, is low maintenance, and tolerates full sun, drought and deer. **Our advice: consider a pine!**

Pines are evergreen conifers that grow to a range of sizes. They have an architectural quality which lends character to a garden and provides yearround interest. Pines are very low maintenance, drought tolerant once established and require no pruning. (*If you do need to control size please ask us how to 'candle' a pine.*)



Pinus strobus 'Tiny Kurls'

Pines are excellent candidates for seaside (they withstand both wind and salt exposure) and container plantings.

We currently have an very good selection of **rare and unique pines** (and other conifers). **Read On** for details of some of our favourites.

Plants that Shine in Winter

What do you see out your window in the middle of winter? Probably a lot of beautiful green, one of the benefits of mild West Coast winters, but what else? If summer gardens are all about masses of colour, winter gardens are more about texture and form, punctuated with bright pops of



colour. Berries, bark and evergreen foliage all shine against our natural green backdrop. <u>Click here</u> for a list of some of the best plants for adding spice and interest to the winter garden.

Fragrant Bonus: It's not by accident that many winter blooming shrubs are highly

Sarcococca confusa

fragrant. Their flowers are often small and insignificant and they need to try harder to attract pollinators. There's nothing like being out in the garden on a winter's day and catching the light scent of *Daphne* or *Sarcococca* on the breeze.

Success with Martagon Lilies



Prized by collectors, martagon lilies (*Lilium martagona*), which have been in cultivation since the late 1500's, deserve a special place in the garden. Also known as Turk's Caps, they are shorter and less rigid than other lilies, clump forming and have multiple flowers on each stem. They are good companions to hostas. For the first time ever, we have bulbs available in limited quantities.

Martagon lilies are adaptable, but can be a little sulky if not happy. Take care of their basic needs and you will be well rewarded.

L. martagona 'Manitoba Morning'

1. They hate to be disturbed, and as they are long lived take care to find them a permanent home. They may not come up the first year so mark the spot well.

2. They need well drained soil with lots of humus. Add a sprinkle of lime and some bonemeal at planting time. Don't add peat.

3. Apply a light leafy mulch annually and give light to moderate amounts of water in the summer.

4. Martagons will tolerate full sun, but prefer light dappled shade or morning sun with afternoon shade.

Scratching Posts for Deer

We all know how much harm hungry deer



can do, but worse damage can be done by bucks with big antlers. During the rut, (roughly early fall through late winter) the dominant bucks lay down their scent by rubbing their antlers on small trees, stripping off swaths of bark in the process. Small trees can even be snapped in half.

Look closely at this photo and you'll see the scar left by such an attack. Luckily the wound was only on one side and is healing. If it had been all the way around the tree could have died.

It's very important to protect young trees using a physical barrier. Three or four pieces of re-bar or strong wooden stakes driven into the ground around young trees will work, as will a small circle of wire fencing, held in

place with a stake or two.

Deer also like to use conifers, and shrubs such as mahonia and berberis as scratching posts - often thrusting antlers into their centres and twirling them like egg beaters - breaking many branches in the process. Netting placed over shrubs or secured by stakes can help protect them. Leave the barriers up from early fall until mid-spring.

Fall Classes

Classes are free except as noted and usually last about an hour. Register by <u>email</u> ***Please include your phone number*** or by phone 250-656-0384

Winter Pruning of Trees and Shrubs - with Noah Alexander

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.

October 28 (full) or November 04 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! <u>Click for Dates & Times</u>



Hasegawa Orchard Ladder Demonstration

Saturday, November 04 from 11:00- 2:00 *with Susanne Osmond*

Hasagawa ladders from Japan are lightweight and engineered for safety. They are the #1 choice of arbourists and professional gardeners and come in two



styles and a range of sizes. If you are in need of a good ladder for pruning and other outdoor chores you should come and have a look.

Susanne will be on hand to demonstrate the many safety features and answer your questions.



The <u>2018 Rose Catalog</u> is now on our website. If you are thinking of planting roses next year have a look. Plant either bare root in Feb/March or potted in late May.

Don't miss out! Pre-order by email.

'Summer Romance' New from PanAm Roses

BULBS ON SALE 30% OFF

Pre-selected collections make it easy to plant for a great show. Lots of options!



Purple Sensation Tulip Mix



Warm Spring Blend



Allium Elegant Mix

Thinking about a greenhouse for next spring? Don't

leave it until the last minute!



Russell Nursery is the 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 <u>website</u>.

Not sure which is the right greenhouse for you?

A **Halls Greenhouse Rep** will be pleased to visit your property for a free on-site consultation.

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



October harvest from the greenhouse



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