

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

Nursery News / Winter 2018



Closing for the season December 21st 4:30 pm

Re-opening February 01, 2019

'Tis the Season

As 2018 comes to a close, it's a good time to reflect on the past year and think of all we've accomplished with the help of our amazing staff and you, our customers. Our first year as owners of Russell Nursery has been very gratifying, continuing the tradition of knowledgeable service and healthy plants.

We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with friends and family and would like to thank you for your continued support as we wish you and your loved ones a healthy and happy 2019.

Sincerely, Sue and Laurel

Holiday Cheer

This is always a fun time of year for us. The nursery becomes quite **festive** as we fill our sales area with locally grown, fresh cut **Christmas trees**, **holiday greenery** and **hand-made wreaths** created by our staff. We have both **traditional and modern wreaths** which we treat with **Wiltpruf** (an all-natural pine resin) so that you can put them up on your door knowing they will last throughout the season. We



also carry all the materials you need if you prefer to create your own masterpiece.

We hope you bring the whole family out to help select the perfect tree and to**enjoy** a cup of our famous **home-made hot apple cider**!

Gift Ideas

Looking for something meaningful to give to a gardener in your life? We have some great gift ideas for you:

- Garland seed trays are top quality products that we source direct from England. Add a copy of Linda Gilkeson's 'Backyard Bounty' and you have the perfect gift for anyone who wants to grow their own food.
- For a more whimsical present, consider **Inspirational Metal Art**. These gorgeous nature-inspired pieces are made locally by Roz Stanton and can be displayed indoors or out in the garden.
- The revised new edition of **'Pruning & Training'** by Brickell and Joyce is the best pruning book around and is a great resource. Package this up with a **Silky Saw** for the gardener who wants to get out and prune with confidence.
- A <u>Halls Greenhouse</u> would make an amazing gift for someone who would love a longer growing season! We have a range of styles and sizes that would suit most gardens.



Still undecided? A **gift certificate** is very versatile and can be used for plants and/or merchandise. It can be purchased in any denomination and there is **no expiry date**!



Artists at the Nursery

Have you noticed all the garden art in our shop recently? We are proud to showcase some of our talented local artists here at the nursery.

Inspirational Metal Art by Roz Stanton. Roz is



Fiddlehead fern by Roz Stanton

located in Pemberton and creates beautiful flora and fauna figures in acid washed steel to add points of interest to the garden.

Birdlandia & Rustic Woodcrafts by Peter Rassenti and Ed Bruning. Ed and Peter create all kinds of whimsical birdhouses from wood and repurposed treasures.

Stand Even Creations by Susanne Standeven. Susanne's stunning garden sculptures are created from mixed media and treated with paverpol to produce weather resistant creations. Learn more <u>here</u>.

Calling all Garden Clubs, Societies & Associations

We would love to include your garden club or society in the <u>Resources section</u> of our website. We think this would be a great help for people new to the area or new to gardening who have a passion for all kinds of plants and could also help to build your membership.

If your garden club would like to be included **please email or call us** with the following information: **name** of the club, society or association, **website** (if available) and a **contact phone** number and/or email address.

We're Hungry for Greens



We love greens (and berries and pretty branches too)!

We are starting to repurpose garden greenery into unique natural wreaths, swags and centrepieces for the holiday season. If you have any cedar, fir, cypress, holly, or decorative branches we would love to have some.

If you are not able to drop it off yourself or you have a lot of material, please call 250-656-0384 to arrange for us to pick it up.

Blast from the Past Russell Nursery Newsletter edition: Winter 1997

Looking for something to do in the garden? Now is a great time to do leaf bud pruning on your rhododendrons. This article from over 20 years ago is still very relevant for today's rhodos!

If after reading this, you are puzzled by which buds are which, come in to the nursery and we can show you.

Keep Those Rhodos in Check By Susan Tice

Here at the nursery we often hear stories of nice, compact, little rhodos which have become tall and leggy, often out-growing their allotted space. The use of a technique known as **"leaf bud pruning"** will go a long way towards **preventing that leggy growth.**

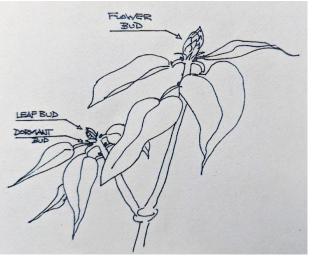
Over the course of the summer, buds will develop at the tips of the current season's growth (terminal buds). Some of these buds will develop into leaves (leaf buds) and others into flowers (flower buds). At the base of these terminal buds, the buds for the next season's growth are already formed and lying dormant.

In the normal course of things, the **dormant buds** on the flowering tips will be automatically **activated after the flowering period** and each will form a new branch. **On the non-flowering shoots**, however, these **dormant buds will not be activated**, few or no side branches will form, and the shoot will grow into a single branch. As young plants generally have more non-flowering than flowering buds, they become leggy unless something is done.

This is where leaf bud pruning comes in.

Leaf bud pruning can be done from late fall up until bloom time. Take a close look at your rhodos. You can usually see the difference between leaf buds and flower buds by now. The flower buds are larger and plumper than the leaf buds (if you aren't sure, wait until the buds are more developed).

Use your fingers, or a sharp



Rhododendron bud types

pruning knife, and carefully cut out the leaf buds to just above the dormant buds at their base, thus activating the dormant buds.

Another technique, known as "shoot pruning" can be used at the beginning of the growing season. Keep an eye out for single shoots and pinch them out just as they start to grow. This will activate the dormant buds around them and again produce a more bushy plant.

Repeat this process annually for a few years and the **plant will grow to be compact and well branched**. The added bonus is that by encouraging fuller branching, one also increases the number of flowers.



Russell Nursery is the only 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 more information please visit our dedicated <u>website</u> for Halls Greenhouses.

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>**



Halls Greenhouse: Popular 106



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