



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

Nursery News / June 2019

Closed Canada Day July 1st



We feel very fortunate to have such a **beautiful setting** here at Russell Nursery and summer is a great time to **wander at your leisure** and explore our wonderful selection of annuals, perennials, shrubs and more. Our **knowledgeable staff** are here and **happy to answer your plant and gardening questions**.

Closed Stat Holidays

Just a reminder that we will be closed on statutory holidays starting on Canada Day, July 1st. Otherwise we are open from 9am-5pm every day of the week.

Plants We Love

Hydrangea 'Wedding Gown' - A beautiful hydrangea with lovely white 'modified lacecap' blooms. In fall the blooms age to a dark



pink that lasts for many weeks. This plant does best with morning sun or dappled sun throughout the day and likes moisture throughout the summer. It grows 2-3' tall by 3-5' wide.

Fox Valley® River Birch (or River Birch 'Little King')

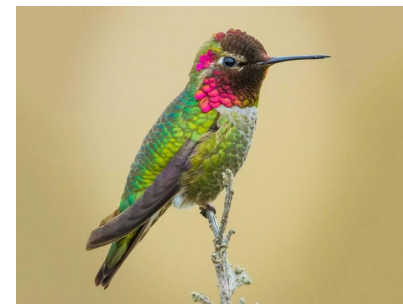
- Fast growing yet compact, this birch tree is perfect for small gardens, providing shade in the summer and winter interest with its peeling bark. They can be planted close together to create a privacy screen and the small leaves break down quickly to provide a natural mulch in the garden.



Salvia - Salvias provide a long period of bloom in the summer garden and come in tones of purple, blue, pink or red. They are drought tolerant, deer-resistant, and low maintenance. They do best in full sun with well drained soil. While some varieties are tender and will not overwinter in our climate, most varieties are hardy and will come back year after year.

Our Feathered Friends

Who doesn't love the hummingbird. Their **beauty, tenacious character and seemingly endless energy** have inspired humans throughout the ages. While hummingbirds are found throughout North and South America, here on the west coast we typically see two types: the **Anna's hummingbird** (*Calypte anna*) and the **Rufus hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*). While Anna's hummingbirds can overwinter here the Rufus hummingbird migrates all the way up from Mexico every spring.



Male Anna's Hummingbird

Hummingbirds love nectar and sugar water but did you know they are also great hunters? Approximately **80% of their diet consists of insects and spiders** which is even more reason to attract them to your garden.

If you'd like to host a hummingbird, or two, make sure to **supply them with a year round supply of nectar-producing flowers** such as Salvia, Ribes, Fuchsia, Perovskia (Russian Sage), *Lobelia cardinalis*, Aquilegia (columbine), Monarda, Crocosmia, *Arbutus unedo*, Mahonia, Weigela, and Penstemon.



Rufus Hummingbird

Providing them with **sugar water in a feeder** is also a great way to **supplement their diets**. Simply boil water to sterilize and add 1 part white sugar to 4 parts water. Do **not** use honey, brown sugar, artificial sweeteners or red dye as these are all harmful to hummingbirds. Also, please make sure to **keep the feeder clean** and free of mold by cleaning and **renewing the sugar water once a week**.

A New Bug in Town

If you have *Pieris japonica* in your garden you may have noticed some changes recently. An introduced pest called the **andromeda lace bug** (*Stephanitis takeyai*) is showing up in greater numbers and feeding on Pieris leaves. The adults and their

offspring suck plant juices from the underside of leaves which **creates a yellow-speckled appearance and can cause leaf drop in very stressed plants**. Pieris sited in hot sunny spots are more at risk because lace bug predators live in the shade.



Adult andromeda lace bug

If this pest has shown up in your garden, don't despair, there is something you can do... In late May or early June, you want to **knock off the pest with a strong stream of water aimed at the underside of leaves**. For **severe infestations**, you may want to spray an **insecticidal soap** such as Safer's Trounce. The Energy Pro 360 Sprayer (available at the nursery) works at any angle and will help you more effectively spray underneath leaves. A second spray 1-2 weeks later (water or insecticidal soap) will help reduce populations even further. It is a good idea to also **keep the area under the plant clean of any Pieris leaf debris**.

If you are ready for a different shrub **to replace your Pieris** there are several options that are also evergreen, of similar size and deer resistant. These include Choisya ternata, Choisya 'Aztec Pearl', Buxus 'Green Mountain', Lonicera nitida, or Nandina 'Gulf Stream'. If you need assistance in making a selection don't hesitate to come by and speak with one of **our staff** who **will help you** find just the right plant for your garden.

More Invasives...

On the topic of **invasive species**, have you seen this plant? **Shiny geranium** (*Geranium lucidum*) is a very recent introduction which the province is trying its best to eradicate. This plant has the ability to quickly colonize an area choking out all other growth. It **forms a dense mat, can shoot seeds up to 20 ft away and has 5 generations per year!** [Click here for more info.](#)



Invasive plant: shiny geranium

Please report any suspected sightings [here](#).



Common weed: dovefoot geranium

Don't panic if you see it everywhere; **it's easy to mistake it for dovefoot geranium** (*Geranium molle*). Dovefoot geranium has soft velvety leaves due to small hairs; whereas shiny geranium leaves are smooth to the touch.

If you have any questions please **send an email to:** invasive.plants@gov.bc.ca.

Roses 2020

We will be putting in our rose order next month for spring 2020, so **if you are looking for a specific rose variety now is the time to let us know.**

You can call or email with your requests and we



Roald Dahl by David Austin

will do our best to bring them in.

If you need inspiration you can **check out our suppliers' online catalogues** ([Weeks](#), [David Austin](#), [Pan American](#)) or wait until late August when we update our own [catalogue](#) for next spring.

Planning & Preparing for a Hot Dry Summer

It's hard not to notice all the dying cedar trees in our area. The summer droughts of the past five summers have taken their toll and now the weather experts are predicting **yet another hot and dry summer in BC**. While we may not be able to help the cedars there are **things we can do in our own gardens to make them more drought resilient**.

Water deeply

Plants benefit from deep watering. While every garden is different it is much better to water deeply less frequently rather than shallow watering daily. This **encourages plant roots to grow deep** enabling them to withstand drought conditions much better. A moisture metre can help determine if a plant is getting enough water. Alternatively dig down with a trowel to see if water is penetrating into the root zone.

Choose plants wisely

Choose plants for the environment they'll be growing in. It's always tempting to buy that beautiful plant that we've seen in our neighbour's garden or the photogenic one we've seen on the internet, but we also need to be realistic. Putting the wrong plant in the wrong space will only lead to grief and struggle for both you and the plant! If you need help with choices, just ask one of our staff.

Establishing phase

Even the most drought resistant plants need time to grow that fantastic root system that will get them through dry periods. **The first year after planting is most critical** to ensure that plants are regularly and thoroughly watered.

Mulch is your ally

Avoid bare soil. Help the soil retain moisture by mulching or by using appropriate ground covers. An added benefit is less weeding!



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 [website](#) 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:
russellnursery@telus.net



***Halls Greenhouse:
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