



QUALITY PLANTS &
KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF

1370 Wain Road, North Saanich, BC 250-656-0384
russellnursery@telus.net www.russellnursery.com

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Open Tues-Sun 9:00 - 4:00

Already Dreaming of Spring?



Moon and Stars Mix

If you are overwhelmed by the choice of bulbs why not **try a ready-made mix**. These bulbs have been carefully selected to complement one another and to bloom well together.

It's bulb planting season - the perfect time to practice delayed gratification in our gardens! Put in the effort now and you will reap the rewards in the spring. Especially this winter, **it will be nice to know that our gardens will burst forth in colour and life** when the sun comes back to our hemisphere.



Sweet Little Dreams Mix



Pollinator Friendly Mix

Why not consider our tiny neighbours when you choose your bulbs? We have several specialty mixes chosen to **provide food sources for our beloved pollinators**.

And the good news is, it's supposed to be dry and sunny for the next week which means perfect bulb planting weather!

Even better news? **We still have a variety of bulbs available**. But don't delay as they are going fast!

Keep Calm and Garden On

There has been **an exceptional amount of interest in gardening this year**, with many newbies flexing their green, or not so green, thumbs. While it is important throughout the year to assess how your plants are doing, autumn is a natural end to the gardening season and a great time to **take stock of your failures, successes and lessons learned for next year.**



Especially for those new to gardening it can be difficult to accept when our gardens don't follow along with our well laid plans! **Don't fret, plants are forgiving and one of the many joys of gardening is that every spring is a new beginning.**



Signs of leafcutter bees on a healthy rose

Worried about the leaf scorch on your carefully tended Japanese Maple, or the holes in the leaves of your roses? No problem! They'll be gone in a month or two anyway. Again, the joy of deciduous shrubs and trees is that you get to start anew each spring.

Gardening is the time to let go of perfectionism and to trust in the grander design of nature. We all have enough stress in our lives this year, **gardening should help reduce your stress not cause you**

more!

And remember, if you're dealing with a pest infestation or plant health issue that you don't know a solution to, **we're always here to help! Phone, email or drop in to the nursery.** Remember, pictures are worth a thousand words and are always a very useful addition to any discussion.



It's All About the Soil!

-By Faye

Last year at this time, I wrote an article about putting my garden to bed, and re-layering the soil in my raised beds, lasagna style.

Gardening isn't exactly for those requiring instant gratification, and the benefit of soil prep is certainly one of those much-delayed rewards.

This year, in spite of the very late arrival of summer my garden was fertile, moisture retentive, and more productive than ever! I credit the extra care I took a year ago for this bounty, and will repeat the process in the next few weeks with all the newly fallen leaves. With the abundant rainfall of the last few days, the soil is ready for a nice topping of amendments.

If you are new to gardening especially, you might enjoy last year's [article](#) on putting your beds to rest.

Wreath Making Workshops

Many of you have been asking and the answer is **"Yes!"**. **We are planning on holding our popular wreath making workshops this year.**

Come and create a beautiful seasonal wreath to decorate your home in a fun and festive setting at Russell Nursery.

Please click [here](#) for more information.



Starting your Trees off Right

-By Sue

A young tree needs to be nurtured so it can grow into a fine mature specimen. Newly planted trees take at least two years to establish and during that time, they are sensitive to environmental stresses, nutrient deficiencies and pest infestations, so they should be monitored closely. Don't be surprised if there isn't much top growth the first year or so but, rest assured that the tree is putting its energy into developing roots. It can be the third or even fourth year after planting before good growth starts, especially if conditions are less than ideal.

Watering is critical. Small root balls tend to dry out quickly and need to be deeply watered once or twice a week throughout the growing season. Even with plenty of water, a new tree may be drought stressed because it simply doesn't have enough roots to draw up the moisture it needs to sustain itself. Don't assume that a little rain in the summer will be enough and do make sure that sprinklers are functioning properly.

Mulching is one of the best things that you can do to keep trees healthy. Most of the feeder roots are in the top few inches of soil and a layer of composted leaves or bark allows them to get oxygen and moisture. Two to four inches will do.



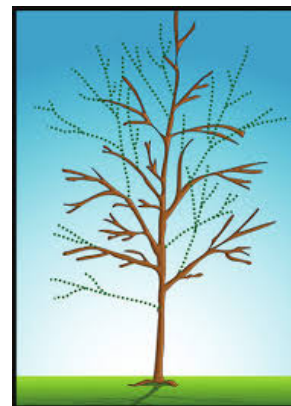
The mulched area around a young tree should be 3 to 4 feet wide. (Which should also be enough to protect it from damage from lawn mowers and string trimmers!) **DO NOT** pile mulch up against the trunk of the tree as that will cause rot and other problems. It should look like a bagel around the trunk, not a volcano.

Damage from wildlife can permanently injure young trees. Deer especially can cause problems.

In the fall and winter, the bucks like to use any small diameter trunk as a scratching post, stripping off the bark or even snapping the trunk right off. Protect trunks with wire fencing or tree wrap.

Fertilizing: Expert opinion on fertilizing differs. Some say that trees should not be fertilized at all. Others say that an application of slow release fertilizer in the spring is beneficial, especially for trees in pots. We get excellent results with the 20-10-10 fertilizer we use in the nursery. Remember though, never fertilize a tree that is under stress due to dehydration, insect problems or disease.

Pruning and training: Young trees need formative pruning to ensure they grow into safe and healthy mature trees with strong trunks and sturdy, well placed branches. Initial training should have been done by the grower, but pruning is ongoing. Excellent information on pruning and tree care can be found on the International Society of Arboriculture "Trees are Good" [website](#), which includes this informative [article](#) on pruning young trees.



Pruning cuts on a young tree.



If you're looking for some fireside reading this winter why not pick up a copy of **"Pruning and Training" by Christopher Brickell and David Joyce** at Russell Nursery. It is hands down our favourite pruning book! Considered by many to be the pruning bible, it provides clear and concise instructions and photos on how and when to prune over 800 plants.

Greens Please!

It's that time of year again where we say greens please!

We would love to get your greenery starting in November! We repurpose conifer and other evergreen branches as well as



decorative seed heads, berries, and branches into wreaths and other festive decorative pieces for the holiday season.

If you have a tree, hedge or shrub which you are pruning in the next month or two please keep us in mind. Please contact us if you have questions or if it is too much for you to bring in your self.

Call us at 250-656-0384

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