

## Nursery News

• **Bulbs are in now.** Lots of new varieties this year. Plant now for explosive displays of spring colour.

• **Our fall hours:** open daily from 9-5 except holidays. We'll be open until Christmas for **Christmas trees and Wreaths.** Please note we will be closed for Thanksgiving Day and Remembrance Day.

• **Thinking of planting a tree this fall?** This is the time of year that we have our best selection of trees, and it's the best time of year to plant one too.

• This will be the **last issue of "Gardening News" for the year,** though we'll still have another email bulletin in November on maintenance tips, and it will also have the schedule for the **Wreath Making classes.** If we don't



have your current email address, please let us know how to contact you by sending a quick note to [russellnursery@telus.net](mailto:russellnursery@telus.net)

• **A warm welcome to Marleen Vanderspek** who joins us part time this fall and full time next year. Marleen will be working mainly in the perennial section.

• **Do you have any of those larger pots** that our trees or shrubs came in? We'd be very grateful if you brought them back the next time you're in the neighbourhood.

• **Questions, comments, suggestions, feedback?** We'd love to hear from you. Our address is: Russell Nursery, 1370 Wain Rd. North Saanich, BC V8L 5V1 or our phone number is 656-0384 or we can be reached by email at [russellnursery@telus.net](mailto:russellnursery@telus.net)

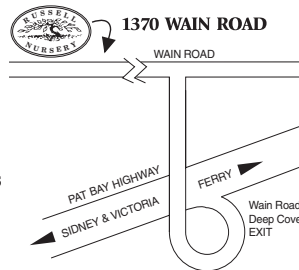
## Russell Nursery in North Saanich

• Trees • Shrubs • Perennials • Pottery  
• Seasonal Annuals and Herbs

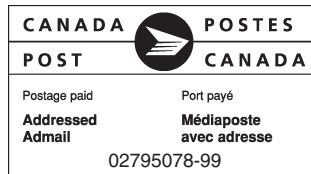
**Unusual and hard-to-find plants along with all the old favourites for your garden. Specializing in trees, shrubs and perennials. Wide Selection of Japanese Maples.**

1370 Wain Road, North Saanich – Phone 656-0384

Regular hours open daily 9-5:00 except some holidays



Russell Nursery  
1370 Wain Road  
North Saanich, BC V8L 5V1



# Fall 2005 GARDENING NEWS

## Gardening Class Schedule

Russell Nursery is pleased to offer another round of gardening seminars in October and November. The classes are free except for the fall pruning workshops. The classes last about an hour. Class size is limited; **please call to reserve a space at 656-0384.** The nursery is located at **1370 Wain Rd. in North Saanich.** Limit of two classes per person.

**Planting for Winter Interest** - with Ingrid Wood. Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**Renovating an Older Garden** - with Alison Sproule. Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> October at 10:00 a.m.

**Putting your Garden to Bed for Winter** - with Stephan Cranz. Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> October at 10:00 a.m.

**Creating Great Compost**, instructor TBA. Saturday, 22 October at 10:00 a.m.

**Pruning Japanese Maples** - with Brian Russell. Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 10:00 a.m.

**Dormant Season Pruning of Trees and Shrubs** - The fall pruning workshops are taught in small groups by professional Arborists. There will be a \$10.00 fee per person to help defray costs. Enrolment is limited. The same class is given on three different Saturdays: October 29<sup>th</sup>, November 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. or at 12:00 noon.

## Ferns Forever - by Lynne Irons

Over a hundred years ago the "fernery" was a popular garden feature but Victorian gardeners would have been amazed to see the numerous varieties of ferns now available to us.

Rather than growing all species of one plant together the current trend is for mixed groupings of plants that enjoy similar growing conditions. Ferns can add shape and texture, which are important features in any garden. Since most ferns prefer shady or part-shady locations they can bring in a lighter and airier feel amongst some of the broad-leaved perennials such as *Hostas*, *Epimediums*, *Ligularias* or *Geranium macrorrhizum*. Groups of ferns can be very effective either interplanted or underplanted amongst shrubs. They can also act as "filler plants" and, as the shrubs mature and take over the space, can be moved, if necessary.

Ferns make good candidates for container plantings, either alone or mixed with other plants. Pansies, for example, are ideal companions to add winter colour. The addition of some of the shade tolerant bulbs such as dwarf *Narcissus*, *Scilla siberica*, *Anemone blanda*, *Muscari* or *Puschkinia* will give a spring surprise.

Green, of course, is the dominant colour in the world of ferns but the Japanese Painted Fern (*Athyrium nipponicum*) is an exception with its fronds in varying shades of silvery-grey and burgundy. Another variety of *Athyrium* is the well named 'Ghost' with its elegant grey-green foliage. The Autumn Fern (*Dryopteris erythrosora*) boasts copper coloured new foliage which eventually turns to shiny green.

Fern leaves usually have many leaflets (pinnae) which give them that typical feathery look but then there's the solid leaf of the Hart's Tongue Fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*). Holly Fern (*Cyrtomium falcatum*) has large shiny leaflets that (not surprisingly) bear a resemblance to holly whereas the Tattling Fern (*Athyrium 'Frizelliae'*) has most unusual scalloped leaflets that look as if someone took bright green thread and crocheted down the stem.

GARDENING NEWS comes to you courtesy of  
**Russell Nursery in North Saanich**

1370 Wain Road, N. Saanich 656-0384  
Regular hours – open daily, 9-5

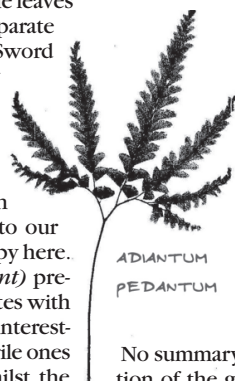
Variations in size give wonderful scope for the fern aficionado. For larger areas the plumes of the Ostrich Fern (*Matteucia struthiopteris*) can wave 1 - 1.5 m (3-5ft) tall and, as with the Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), being deciduous, provide a spectacular sight in spring when the new fronds unfurl from bare roots. Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) stands tall with light green leaves and is sometimes referred to as a flowering fern because its small fertile leaves form a clublike mass at the top of a separate stem. Some evergreen alternatives are Sword Fern and Deer Fern which will both grow to 1 m (3ft) or more. Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*) is perhaps the most worthy of ferns, will grow in most conditions from dry shade to full sun (with moisture) and we are blessed with the fact that this lovely plant is native to our area and so has a headstart on being happy here. Our native Deer Fern (*Blechnum spicant*) prefers the conditions one normally associates with ferns - moist, humus-rich soil. It has the interesting feature of two kinds of leaves. The sterile ones form a rosette close to the ground whilst the fronds which carry the spores stand up like ladders.

In the mid-sized range fall most of the Dryopteris clan, some of which are evergreen and some semi-evergreen, depending on the severity of the winter. Toothed Wood Fern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*) has light green compound fronds which make it appealing to flower arrangers. Varieties of the Male Fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) are deciduous. A form of it with a skeletal look but a mouthful of a name is the Slender Crested

Male Fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas* 'Linearis Polydactylon'). One of the most elegant ferns is the Maidenhair (*Adiantum pedatum*). The delicate palmate fronds waving atop wiry black stems belie its hardy nature - this fern grows as far north as Alaska. The *Polystichum* genus provides a good representation of medium-sized ferns, most of which are evergreen. Tassel Fern (*Polystichum polyblepharum*) has tassel like new growth

which matures to wide glossy green fronds.

Smaller ferns are the previously mentioned Japanese Painted Fern varieties and the Tattling Fern. Oak Fern (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*) is a spreading dainty looking deciduous fern that can be used as groundcover under shrubs. Korean Rock Fern (*Polystichum tsusimense*) has leathery leaves with dark green veining and is evergreen.



ADIANTUM  
PEDANTUM

No summary would be complete without mention of the giant of the family, the Tree Fern or Man Fern which can grow to heights of several metres. Whilst most Tree Ferns prefer slightly milder winters than ours, the Tasmanian Tree Fern (*Dicksonia antarctica*) has proved to be viable in our area when grown in a very sheltered site. Imagine being able to grow ferns in the shade of a fern!

Ferns have been around for millions of years and with minimal care in the garden - provision of humus-rich soil and some clean up of old fronds - they should be around for many more.

## A (Very) Short History of Plant Names - by Sue Tice

Botanical Latin, or any other Latin for that matter, is unfamiliar and foreign sounding, but there is no doubt of its usefulness in describing the specifics of plants in a way that has international recognition. But where do the names actually come from? The answer is everywhere.

The Romans laid the foundation for modern usage of plant names when they began cataloging what they saw around them and recording the names in common use at the time. For example, the Latin name for maple is Acer, which refers to the hardness of the wood - used for making spear shafts. Such familiar names Arbutus, Cornus, Juniperus, Pinus, and Lilium date back to Roman times.

The Greeks gave us such names as Achillea; common yarrow, which honours Achilles, heroic warrior of the Trojan Wars. It was common

knowledge that this plant had healing properties and it was used on the battlefield to treat wounds. Greek mythology also gave us Daphne, Anemone, Hyacinth, and Hebe (the goddess of youth). Some names, such as Calendula, Alchemilla, and Aquilegia come from medieval times.

During the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the British ruled the seas and sent many expeditions out to explore far off lands. It was common for botanists to travel with these expeditions and they returned from their travels with thousands of exotic specimens. Some of the most famous plant explorers traveled with Captain Cook and explored our coast. Our own native plants were of great interest to the early explorers. David Douglas of Scotland made three voyages to the New World with Captain

Cook and introduced to England the western red cedar and the tree that bears his name - the Douglas Fir. He himself actually named the tree *Pseudotsuga menziesii* after Archibald Menzies, the botanist and surgeon who accompanied George Vancouver on his travels. The native Arbutus tree, *Arbutus menziesii*, also carries Menzies' name. *Garrya elliptica* was named for Nicholas Garry of the Hudson's Bay Company, who assisted David Douglas with his explorations of the Pacific North West. *Vancouveria hexandra*, a native groundcover, was named for George Vancouver.



DAVID DOUGLAS KNEW  
A GOOD TREE WHEN  
HE SAW ONE

Many of our best garden plants hail from China and Japan. Explorers such as Robert Fortune, Ernest 'Chinese' Wilson, Joseph Hooker and French missionary botanist Père David were all responsible for introducing a wide array of plants to Europe and the nursery trade. Flower-

## Staff picks

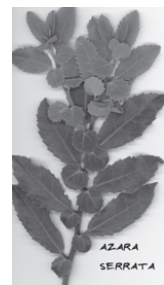
**Joe's pick: Corylus avellana 'Contorta'**



(**Harry Lauder's Walking Stick**) During much of the year, this strong-growing shrub provides a lovely dark green backdrop in the landscape. In winter the twisted

branches and pendulous golden catkins create an eye-catching silhouette. Provide ample space: this unusual shrub can grow to 15 feet tall and wide. Named after the crooked cane of legendary vaudeville comic Harry Lauder.

**Sue's Pick: Azara serrata** - This native of Chile is a very interesting addition to our pallet of evergreen shrubs for coastal gardens. The evergreen leaves are emerald green in colour, and it produces showy, fragrant, spherical dark yellow flowers in mid-spring. It grows higher than wide, to about 12 feet, and shows promise as a quick screen or as a specimen in the shrub border, in sun or partial shade.



**Brian's Pick: Parrotia persica** (Persian Ironwood). This small tree is ideally suited to Vancouver Island. It is tough and drought tolerant and its attractive foliage provides a strong display of fall colour, in rich orange-red tones. In late winter it offers unusual, small, petal-less red flowers, on bare branches, just before the

ing cherries, hydrangeas, azaleas, jasmine, viburnums, bleeding heart, lilies, roses - the list is endless. Many plants are named for these and other great plantsmen. The second part of a botanical name is a descriptive term of some kind and when it ends in "i" or "ii" it refers to a person. Sometimes the second part of a plant name is the country of origin - anything ending in japonica, for example, comes from Japan.

Fortunei, davidii, wilsonii, hookeri, douglasii, there are many stories behind these names: tales of adventure on the high seas, strange lands and amazing plant life. The next time you hear an "ii" or the name of a country at the end of a plant name, think of how that plant got here and feel for just a moment the adventure and the thrill of discovering a plant never before seen by Western eyes.

leaves appear. It usually grows as a multi stem tree, but can be grown as a single stem specimen as well, to about 25 feet high and wide. Plant in sun or part shade, in average, well drained soil.

**Angie's pick: Viburnum bodnantense 'Pink Dawn'**. This is one of the best Viburnums



for fall and winter interest. The leaves turn a nice red in autumn and the plant produces showy clusters of sweetly fragrant flowers off and on from October through early spring. It's tough and easy-care, nice in the back of the border or as a specimen, growing to about 10 feet high by 6 feet wide. Try pairing with Callicarpa (Beautyberry).

**Jacquie's Pick: Nandina 'Moon Bay'**. This compact form of Nandina (or Heavenly Bamboo) makes an attractive evergreen shrub approximately three feet tall and wide. Its decorative fern-like leaves are bright lime green during the growing season, and then turn a great red in fall. White flowers are followed by persistent red berries. This beautiful shrub is also good in containers. Plant in average soil, in sun or half sun location.

