

Nursery News

Hours: We're open 7 days a week from 9 to 5, and we will be open for all holidays in April and May.

Classes will resume in June. This time the class **schedules will only be sent out by email bulletin in late May or early June.** If we don't have a current email address for you, could we ask you to take a moment to send us a quick note to russellnursery@telus.net In this way you will be sure to get the class schedule when we send it out.

It's **time to fertilize** again, if you have not already done so. **Acer 20-10-10** is available in 4, 8 and 20kg bags, and is the all purpose fertilizer we recommend first. It releases slowly over a 5 to 7 month period, so a single application in the spring is all you need for the year. It is the same fertilizer we use on all our plants here at the nursery.

A few years ago did any one of you purchase a **Hydrangea 'All Summer**

Beauty' from us? We no longer have a stock plant for this highly desirable cultivar and are wondering if we could get a few cuttings in exchange for something neat. Could you let us know if you have one please?

Time once again to do that old song and dance about **returning plant pots** - it's still potting season here and we are keen to get back our one gallon size pots and larger, particularly the ones that trees came in.

A **warm welcome** to Leah Croft and Emma Taylor who have joined our staff this spring. We are extremely pleased to have them on board.

Questions? Comments? We'd love to hear from you. Our email address is russellnursery@telus.net or you can send mail to Russell Nursery, 1370 Wain Rd., North Saanich, BC V8L 5V1 or you can phone or fax us at 656-0384.

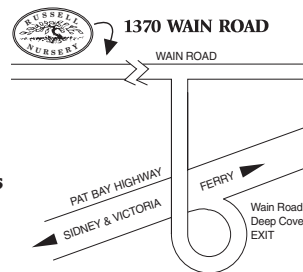
Russell Nursery in North Saanich

- 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



Spring 2003 GARDENING NEWS

Hot and Spicy Colours this Summer with Perennials

by Michele Russell



We all have different tastes when it comes to colour in the garden and while there are some who like it cool and mellow there are others who like it hot and spicy. Vibrant yellows, oranges and reds are great summer colours, but they are attention seekers and can be overwhelming, so consider carefully when you plan a hot and spicy bed. Foliage plays an important role in taming these strong colours, so be sure to make use of all the various shades of green, yellow and purple available to us. Contrasting interesting foliage with a simple but hot palette of flower colour can be an exciting challenge.

Imagine a bed leaning towards rich dark reds and oranges. You could use the pur-

ple smoke bush (*Cotinus*) behind masses of *Crocsmia 'Lucifer'* (spikey green foliage with red flowers). Add red lilies for vertical accents poking up here and there, *Lonicera 'Baggeson's Gold'* (tiny yellow leaves) and masses of day lilies with their low, mounding spikey foliage and orange or red flowers. Fill in the gaps with *Achillea* or *Coreopsis* (frothy green foliage with soft yellow or orange blooms).

You could also consider a bed with warm yellows and oranges as the main focus. Try *Sambucus 'Plumosa Sutherland'* with its striking dissected, golden leaves, with *Phormiums* (green or bronze spikey leaves), masses of soft yellow *Hemerocallis* (daylilies), *Crocsmia 'Emily McKenzie'* (warm orange flowers with grass-like foliage), *Euphorbia 'Fireglow'* (orange flowers), *Achillea* (soft, frothy orange to red blooms) and *Phygelius* (tubular yellow or red flowers)

Both of the above beds would benefit from a backdrop of cool greenery. Add a few grasses for texture and splashes of deep purple flowers such as *Aconitum*



Emma, Valerie, Lynne, Sue, Leah, Brian, Michele, Angie and Tony

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Russell Nursery in North Saanich

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

'Sparks Variety', purple delphiniums or Salvia 'East Friesland' here and there and you will have a very attractive, hot and spicy planting.

Hot and Spicy Perennial Favourites

Good Reds: Liliium 'Nerone', Monarda 'Jacob Kline', Phygelius 'Devil's Tears', Crocosmia 'Lucifer', Hemerocallis (many), Papaver 'Beauty of Livermore', Potentilla 'Gibson Scarlet', Canna 'Black Knight', Lobelia 'Queen Victoria', Imperata 'Rubra' (Japanese Blood Grass)

Hot Oranges: Helianthemum 'Henfield Brilliant', Geum x Borisii, Hemerocallis (many), Euphorbia 'Fireglow', Helenium 'Morheim Beauty', Crocosmia 'Emily McKenzie', Kniphofia, Achillea 'Walter Funcke'.

Yellows: Euphorbia 'Wulfenii', Rudbeckia 'Herbstsonne', Phygelius 'Moonraker', Achillea (several), Eremurus (Fox tail lily), Hemerocallis (many), Coreopsis 'Moonbeam'.

What's New For Spring

by Susan Tice

We are always on the look out for new plants that will do well here and this year we have found some that we're really pleased to have in the nursery. Some are

from our ongoing wish-list while others are recent introductions. Quantities are limited on some items. Here's a sample:

Azara serrata: We've been watching this very attractive shrub for a couple of years now and really like it. It is a strong grower with an arching habit. Interesting glossy foliage is covered by little puffs of vanilla scented yellow flowers in summer. Needs a protected site in sun or part shade.

Cotinus 'Pink Champagne: Purple smoke bush seems to get all the press, but this new green form will attract a lot of attention. New leaves emerge bronzy purple, turning vibrant green in summer and brilliant scarlet in fall. Clouds of airy pink flowers in summer complete the effect. Open, upright habit- 6-8 ft.

Distylium racemosum: (Izu Tree) Evergreen with glossy, leathery foliage and an arching habit, this witch hazel relative has small red flowers in early spring. It's a very attractive, trouble free shrub, and would be a fine addition to the woodland garden. It also grows well in containers.

Franklinia altamaha: With a reputation for being both hard to find and hard to

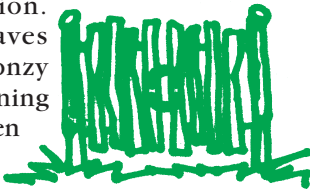
grow, this is a rarity indeed. It is prized for its fragrant white flowers in summer and its colourful fall foliage. A native of Georgia, it was named for Benjamin Franklin. It has been extinct in the wild since around 1830. It is only by luck and the efforts of an astute plant hunter that it still exists. If you have the right spot for a dogwood, this might be a tree worth trying.

Hippophae rhamnoides: (Sea Buckthorn) This is one tough plant and just the thing to use as a windbreak along the coast. Use as a hedge or to stabilize a sandy slope. It has silver leaves and small insignificant flowers followed by orange berries on female plants. Thicket forming to a height of about 8'.

Ruscus aculeatus 'Wheeler's Variety': Butcher's Broom. This evergreen, clump-forming sub-shrub is not quite a shrub, and not quite a perennial. It prefers a dry site in full shade, but is adaptable to sunnier locations. Small, white flowers are followed by bright red berries. Often dried and used in floral arrangements.

Styrax japonicus 'Emerald Pagoda': A new variety of Japanese snowbell with a denser, more pyramidal shape, larger glossier leaves and showier flowers.

Tetracentron sinense: This rare tree, which has been described as both graceful and elegant, could use a catchier name! It has a spreading habit, large heart shaped leaves and 6" yellow catkin like flowers in summer. New growth is red. It will likely grow to about 30'.



GARDEN SMARTIFACT



Estimating quantities of mulch or soil. In this supposedly metric country, soil and mulch are still delivered in cubic yards. There are 27 cubic feet in a cubic yard (3x3x3 feet). If you wanted to add soil to the depth of 12 inches over 100 square feet, you would need 100 cubic feet or 3.7 cubic yards (divide by 27 to get cubic yards). Let's say you want to put two inches of bark mulch over a bed you have measured at 100 feet long by 4 feet wide (400 square feet). If you were putting down 12 inches you would need 400 cubic feet, but because you only need 2 inches, then divide by 6 (2 inches is 1/6 of foot) - 400 divided by 6 is 67 cubic feet or about 2 1/2 cubic yards. Isn't garden math fun?



Other important staff members:
Sandy and Smokey

Worth Repeating

Summer Oil – Trounce spray

This recipe has been popular with our customers and is a very effective, environmentally kind spray for **aphids, whitefly and immature (crawler) scale insect**. One litre of water, 10 mls. summer oil, 10 mls trounce. (10 mls is the same as two teaspoons). Don't use on drought stressed plants and don't spray on a hot, sunny day.

Baking Soda – Summer Oil spray

This recipe is very effective for **black spot and powdery mildew on roses**. 1 litre of water, 1 teaspoon summer oil (5 mls) and 1 teaspoon baking soda. It can be used as a cure or as a preventative measure. Be sure to spray both tops and bottoms of the leaves.

If you want to achieve a more **natural look** in your garden and **still maintain seasonal interest**, try to incorporate a good mix of evergreen and deciduous plants. Aim for a balance of about 50% evergreen with the remaining 50% made up of deciduous trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials.

Stake perennials that need support before they actually need it, to avoid that cinch waisted, bondage look.

Work with your site, not against it.

If you have a shady area, don't force sun loving plants like lavender and roses into that spot - they just won't be happy there. Instead, use the plants meant for those conditions: rhodos, hostas, ferns, hellebores. Also, remember that no matter how bad your soil, it can always be improved. A yearly top-dressing with mulch is a good way to start, and is the first step toward a healthy garden.