

Nursery News

- **Classes** will resume in June. The class **schedule will only be sent out by email bulletin in 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.
- We are putting the **roses** out for sale as this goes to the printer. Lots of bush and climbers this year and some roses on standards as well.
- Sadly, the **Flower and Garden Show** will not be held this year at Royal Roads or anywhere else. The show management is planning for a 2005 show to be held in a number of venues in Victoria.
- 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.
- Do you have any of our **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 four new staff members who joined us this spring: Joe Howroyd, Jacquie Martineau, Laurie Acheson and Marj Herring. We are extremely pleased to have them on board.
- **Questions? Comments? Suggestions?** 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.

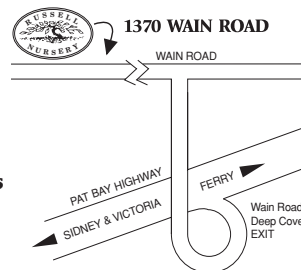
Russell Nursery in North Saanich

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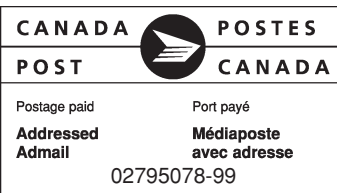
Unusual and hard-to-find plants along with all the old favourites for your garden. Specializing in trees, shrubs and perennials. Wide Selection of Japanese Maples.

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



Summer 2004 GARDENING NEWS

Growing Group 3 Clematis – by Angela Day

The later blooming (or group 3) clematis are the easiest clematis to care for and need the least maintenance. They can be pruned back every year at the very end of winter to a pair of buds about a foot off the ground. What makes G3 types so special, aside from the easy care, is the late bloom period (June to September) and the abundance of colours, from soft blue to deep red and even yellow. There is sure to be one that fits your colour scheme.



G3 clematis are great candidates to grow over shrubs and through trees and other structures. Because they are cut back hard every year, they won't accumulate a mass of stems to weigh down and strangle the host plant. They can give new life to a plant that is finished blooming (very nice in a flowering cherry, for example) and can bring a bare wall or plain fence to life with lush green growth and late season flower. G3 clematis are very versatile and can be grown almost anywhere in your garden.

Angie's Favourites:

'Perle d'Azur' – free flowering from stem to tip with large 8 to 10 cm. sky-blue flowers. Great for a large wall, can reach 12 feet, ideal for growing with roses.

'Comtesse de Bouchard' – bright mauve-pink with a satin sheen. Large flower (12.5 cm.), rounded with crimped edges and blunt tips. Also great with a rose.

'Clematis viticella 'Purpurea Plena Elegans' – has delightful double, nodding violet-purple flowers. This is a vigorous grower that looks great with a lighter backdrop, and is good as a cut flower.

'Clematis viticella 'Etoile Violet' – Vigorous and free flowering, reaching 13 feet. Flowers are a nodding deep violet with yellow anthers. Good specimen to gaze into from below.

'Golden Tiara' – Open bell shaped flowers held upright on the plant are bright yellow with purple anthers. Attractive seed heads follow the flowers. This clematis is good with low growing shrubs, ground cover plants and is excellent in containers.



Valerie & "Sandy", Sue, Lynne, Brian & Michele, Jacquie & Leah, Marj, Joe, Laurie, Angie

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

Sun to Shade and Back Again - by Susan Tice

There always seems to be a spot in the garden that is shady all day but gets a blast of afternoon sun, or one that is sunny for a few hours in the middle or at the end of the day and shady the rest of the time. Buildings, trees, fences and shrubbery create changing patterns of light and shadow and newly planted trees and shrubs cast bigger shadows as they grow. Choosing suitable plants seems difficult when the conditions are always changing. When selecting plants, we use terms like part shade and full sun as guides, but they don't tell the whole story. It is light levels that are key in determining plant placement - more so than the actual amount of direct sun.

Understanding the terminology used to describe light levels makes the decision process much easier. **Full sun** usually means

sunny all day, from dawn to dusk or a sunny area where heat builds up. **Sun** can be defined as 6 or more hours of sun per day, including that at mid-day. The most beneficial sunlight is received between 11am and 2pm and bright filtered light at this time has more value than direct sun in the late afternoon or early morning. **Part shade** is a catch all term that usually means either a half-day of sun or at least four hours of shade, but it can also refer to dappled shade. It should be taken to mean shaded from the east or west or offering some protection from the heat of the day. **Bright shade** means good light with little or no direct sun and **dense shade** refers to dark areas that never see the sun.

Plants are adaptable and there are many, many plants that are perfectly happy in changeable

conditions. Darwin's theory of survival of the fittest is illustrated everywhere in the plant kingdom. All plants are native to some part of the world and have evolved to survive the local conditions. Forest floor plants develop large leaves to capitalize on small amounts of available light. Most vines are forest plants stretching to the sun. Many shrubs are found in the bright forest under-story, protected by the canopies of tall trees. Small trees are small because they have evolved to grow under large shade trees. Mediterranean plants like rosemary have tiny little leaves to protect themselves from the hot sun and reduce moisture loss and desert plants have big fleshy leaves and enormous roots designed to store food between infrequent rains.

Heat and moisture levels play an important role in the balance of sun and shade and can make the difference between a plant thriving or just surviving. A shade garden won't usually mind a couple of hours of afternoon sun if it's not too hot. In fact, many varieties of hostas won't develop their best colour without some sun. Plants like rhododendrons and hydrangeas can do quite nicely in sun provided they have enough moisture- neither will flower really well if they are grown in total shade- but put them up against a hot, south or west facing wall and they will really struggle. Clematis varieties like Nelly Moser, and many others, will have better colour given some shade, as will Asiatic lilies, phlox, coneflowers and daylilies. Aggressive plants

can be held in check by keeping them on the dry side in a shady site.

Some plants are adaptable enough to grow almost anywhere, making them good choices for those "in between" areas or for areas that are currently sunny but will become shadier as trees and shrubs grow. They can be repeated to provide continuity or to unify different areas of the garden. Keep in mind that the habit and form won't always be the same, and flowering or berries may not be quite as expected.

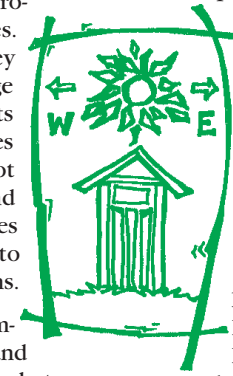
Some Suggested Plants for Transition Areas:

Perennials: Alchemilla, Astrantia, Bergenia, Japanese anemone, Astilbe, Daylilies, Epimedium, Euphorbia, Lysimachia, Monarda, Campanula, Ferns, Echinacea, Filipendula, Foxgloves, Hardy geraniums, Heuchera, Hosta, Lilies, Primula, Rudbeckia, Solomon's Seal, Sedum, Valerian.

Grasses: Carex, Chasmanthium (Northern Sea Oats), Deschampsia, Hakonechloa,

Shrubs: Arbutus unedo, Buxus, Camellias, Ceanothus, Choisya, Cornus alba, Cotoneaster, Euonymus, Hydrangeas, Lonicera nitida, Ribes, Rhododendron, Philadelphus, Prunus 'Otto Luyken', Portugese Laurel, Pyracantha (No berries in shade), Taxus, Viburnums

Trees: Dogwoods, Magnolias, Japanese Maples, Stewartia, Carpinus



GARDEN SMARTIFACT



Is there a gentle fungicide that has been scientifically tested? The answer is yes. Cornell University has been testing bicarbonates for years. Bicarbonate of soda, or ordinary baking soda, has been proven to be a contact fungicide that, among other things, kills the fungus that causes powdery mildew and blackspot. This spray will help prevent and/or control blackspot and mildew on roses, as well as powdery mildew on summer squash, and early blight on tomatoes. Horticultural oil helps the soda stick to the leaves. The modified formula can be used to control aphids and spider mites at the same time. The addition of RainGrow provides a foliar feed plus there is some evidence that it helps prevent aphid colonies from forming. It is always a good idea to test spray a small area before spraying the entire plant. For blackspot control remove infected leaves before spraying and be sure to spray both sides of the leaves and the stems.

Original Cornell Formula

Add 5 ml (1 tsp) each of baking soda and horticultural oil to 1 litre of water. Shake well before and during application with a sprayer. If threat of disease is high, spray every 5 to 7 days.

Modified Cornell Formula

10 ml (2 tsp) horticultural oil
5 ml (1 tsp) baking soda
10 ml (2 tsp) liquid plant food such as RainGrow
1 litre of water

Mix together in a sprayer and shake well before and during use.

Spray in the evening, after the sun has gone down

Spray monthly (or as needed) from April to October.

Water plants thoroughly before spraying and give the foliage a quick blast to scare away beneficial insects.

Wide World of Gardening News: How the Sexes Behave in the Flower Bed

UK Garden writer Kathryn Bradley-Hole has examined many pre-war gardens for her upcoming book "Lost Gardens of England" and found evidence of what she claims are striking differences between how the sexes approach garden design.



Looking primarily at gardens designed between 1897 and 1942, Bradley-Hole finds that most women designers 'have a natural response to flowers, to the creativity' and

are happier to trust in nature. She finds the male designers more controlling. Many planned their lawns and beds in formal geometric patterns with 'immaculate symmetrical flowerbeds and arrow straight avenues'. 'There's that connection with the earth, which perhaps

[men] with their machines are one step removed [from]', says Bradley Hole, 'After all, who ever heard of an earthfather?'

Source: *The Observer*, online edition