

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

April, 2007 Newsletter

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CELEBRATING TEN YEARS

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Established 1997

CREATE YOUR GARDEN RETREAT

Spring arrives so subtly that it can catch the best of us off guard. Implement some simple ideas now to make your garden retreat a haven that you can en-



joy throughout the year. Thoughtfully study your space. How do you want to use it? Do you want to entertain in this area, have a quiet breakfast, or read a book? If food will be cooked and served, you may want to invest in an outdoor kitchen area. Is the entire garden retreat area large enough? If not, you may want to renovate, because it is difficult to relax in a space that is too small. Your outdoor living spaces should beckon you to come outdoors to relax in peace.

Take note of your favorite colors, and how those colors will complement existing furniture when viewed from indoors and at different times of day when the light changes. Frame and center the views of garden vignettes from several important windows indoors. Look for symmetry between the outdoor features and the indoor features.



To achieve a restful appearance, simplify the arrangement of planters into groups of three or five. Use architectural plants such as evergreens for large planters in sunny situations; choose large tropicals proportionate for large planters in shady locations. Repetition in container shape, size, or color will help achieve the streamlined, comfortable look.



Speaking of comfort, does your outdoor furniture *look* comfortable? If it doesn't look comfortable, it probably isn't. Would you enjoy deeper, fluffier color coordinated cushions and pillows in attrac-



tive, complimentary patterns? Make the groupings of furniture functional. If you want people to congregate in one specific area, visually designate that through the use of color, comfort, and furniture placement. Consider whether hard surfaces need softening by the addition of outdoor rugs, pillows, plants in layers of color and foliage patterns. Are there softly ringing wind chimes and the peaceful sound of trickling water from a nearby fountain?

Make a budget and determine at least one or two projects that can be completed this season to increase the use and enjoyment of an outdoor living room. Then be prepared to have guests join you, because anyone who visits your home will be drawn outdoors, wanting to spend time with you in your beautiful, relaxing outdoor living spaces.

TEN YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

This being our tenth anniversary, we decided to share with our readers ten things that we have learned since opening the store.

1. Proper hand watering of container plantings. The new outermost root ends absorb water and nutrients. Watering pots slowly, from the outside edge thoroughly saturates the soil so that the roots can absorb water most easily.
2. Buy high quality garden accessories that your children will fight over.
3. Bigger is better when choosing containers and garden accents. Almost everyone second guesses themselves and tends to select accessories that are too small. Someone said, "The outdoors is a very big room", so it takes big accessories. Large ornaments make superb focal points in small gardens.
4. Container planting technique. We have learned to choose compatible, complimentary colors and foliage. Remember "thriller", "fillers", and "spillers" when composing container plantings. We use tropicals for shade areas. Plant one architectural plant in a pot for drama, or as many as possible for instant effect.
5. Color echoing in plants, furniture, rugs, planters, and outdoor furniture. Choose a color scheme for the year, not necessarily for life, and even paint furniture to complete the color scheme. Repeat color in plants and fabric pattern, and repeat plant forms for unity and symmetry.
6. Christy, the "tool lady", says "Use the right tool for the right job". The garden will be healthy and the gardener will be happy.
7. Learning how to fix a fountain pump empowered Christy to confidently tackle the unknown in other mechanical situations.
8. Good dirt is critical for a container or garden to thrive.
9. Move plants or pull them up if they don't perform.
10. Never have enough time? Grab fifteen minutes to pull weeds in an area, deadhead, or spread a bag of mulch.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE STORE

Spring at Wilshire Garden Market means bunnies of



all shapes, sizes, and materials. Some are used for indoor décor and others give a refreshing seasonal touch to the garden. A small light-weight rabbit rests in a nos-

algic nest of pastel bird's eggs, or perches as the focal point in a wreath of life sized pastel eggs that look good enough to eat.

Cute little cuddling cast stone bunnies bring a smile; a family of bunnies can represent family closeness in the garden retreat. Tall, upright hares lend a sophisticated look to the garden.



Bunnies are just the beginning.



These plump yellow spring ceramic chicks and ducklings might jump into baskets and spring containers of tulips, peek out from the

greenery in a table centerpiece, or waddle around the place settings of a spring dining table. Reminiscent of vintage pieces, they are admired by young and old alike.



Making a repeat appearance will be the cast stone



lamb with mossy green finish. How peaceful this will look grazing in a shady area of lawn, a potager, or near a mass of flowers.

A favorite French milled soap in aqua with tiny speckles resembles oversized robins' eggs; the fragrance is a very clean, delicious mandarin tea.



Candy colors make these polyester outdoor mats a



great springtime addition for outdoors or inside. Shown are pink and mint green "Sweet Peas" and a buttercup with violet "Provence Fleurs" Soft underfoot, they

can be machine washed and line dried.

The outdoor swing chairs are becoming so popular that they are worth a second mention. They are available in combinations of all pillow fabric patterns and colors from yellow floral to pink and green stripes, to black and white prints. Loose pillows are available in three sizes. Many are in stock and new styles are being added each week. Complementing fabrics in 51" width can be ordered with two week delivery.



APRIL 2007 TO DO LIST

- Prune winter flowering vines and shrubs after bloom.
- Plant permanent ground cover.
- Plant or repair lawns.
- Plant bare root or container roses, annuals, perennials, fruit trees, and evergreens.
- Feed house plants that are growing or blooming.
- Prune spring flowering or tender shrubs during or just after bloom.
- Plant vegetable seedlings.
- Plant summer and fall flowering bulbs.

SEMINAR SERIES 2007

These seminars begin at 10:30 a.m. and end at noon, with time for questions at the conclusion. The fee is \$10 per person; seating is somewhat limited, so call now to reserve a space. Door prizes are given at each seminar. Please join us!

Sat., May. 5 Linda Vater "Your Summer Garden"

You can get interesting garden information by watching Linda Vater's garden segments on KFOR-TV 4:45 News with Linda Cavanaugh.

EXTERIOR DECORATING

Give yourself (or someone else) a garden retreat, or update an existing one. Wilshire Garden Market provides an exterior decorating consultation service. By appointment, for a nominal fee, we will make a consultation visit followed by written suggestions to make your garden retreat more charming, cohesive, and useful. Call the store for details or to set up an appointment.



Let us help you create your outdoor living room!

Come see our Garden Cottage at the Symphony Designer's Show House opening April 29.

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