

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

August 2005 Newsletter
Vol. 2, No. 7

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Established 1997

OUTDOOR BEAUTY REDEFINED THE LATEST TRENDS IN GARDEN FURNISHINGS

The Atlanta Market was the most exciting and productive trip in several years; the latest trends and new products are truly worth mentioning. This year the obvious theme was Casual Outdoor Living, showing an abundance of accessories, while barely showing any practical garden products such as tools. The well known concept of the outdoor living room has expanded to include the outdoor kitchen and the outdoor bedroom. There was a focus on high quality, comfortable products, rather than the "disposable, one season lifespan" garden accessories found at the big box stores.

Vendors have developed comfortable casual outdoor living accessories that are virtually weatherproof, products that add texture and layering the same as with interior decorating. Of particular interest were outdoor rugs, decorator quality pillows with fringe, and truly weatherproof outdoor art.



Weatherproof art will be the answer to many outdoor decorating needs, adding color and beauty normally only found on indoor walls. After meeting with the president of the company, it is apparent that these images are indeed weatherproof.

They have been tested at temperatures from -70F to 140F, subjected to saltwater spray blasted at 100mph (for the equivalent of 7 years), and UV rays all with no negative effects. A number of sizes are available from 8" x 8" welcome plaques to 32" x 44" art pieces for mounting on outdoor walls or attached to one of their weatherproof easels that can be staked into the ground or held in place by a heavy pot. The first shipment of art will arrive August 15



The polypropylene Turkish outdoor rugs are now available in more styles, colors, and sizes. Durable and colorful, they add instant richness and depth to an outdoor seating area. The rugs are soft, resilient, and have colorfast properties. Water flows through them, so they won't mildew or rot wooden decks. They come in 3'x6', 5'x8', and 6'x9'; new sizes are on the drawing board for 2006. New styles include a Pennsylvania Dutch in pine green, cranberry, or pecan and an Oriental Floral design in a soft eggplant or a muted mint/pine.



Pillows are now being made with weatherproof fabric and fringe. The cushions are made from a poly blended material that is chemically treated to resist mildew; after a rain they dry easily. The owner of the company stated that they have had a swatch of fabric suspended in a jar of straight bleach for over a year and it hasn't affected it. New fabrics are being created that are beautiful, unique, and treated so that they will truly wear well outdoors.

Oilcloth was again highly visible. The pillows are cheerful in a garden setting, fade proof, and highly water resistant. Now custom orders can be made for chair or bench cushions.



There was a large presence of colorful, oversized glazed terra cotta pots. High fired and glazed, these containers can stay outdoors year round and can be adapted easily to serve as water features. Some are so oversized that it is hard to imagine that they are handmade pieces. This year the glazes are in varied hues ranging from a robin's egg blue and deep eggplant to their new line, "Lipstick". Ask to see the new catalog; a new order is being compiled.

Color was apparent in outdoor furniture. Subdued finishes gave way to tropical cherry, pink, lemon, lime, tangerine, turquoise, and aqua, in retro, classic, and contemporary styles. Wilshire Garden Market selected the authentic French bistro furniture; the sturdy, colorful sets come in a variety of styles that add charm any or outdoor living room.



We found many garden gifts at Market as well, from new candles with a floral theme, many new colorful ceramic toadstools and birds, cornstalk wreaths, and small pots containing lifelike year round botanicals. There are adorable garden theme gifts for all occasions that will be available this autumn. Also available will be beautiful tailgate party cases that include complete dining accessories for two or four; these include wine caddies!

In addition to the gift items found at the Atlanta Market, Wilshire Garden Market will be carrying the framed garden theme wall and desk calendars by Four Seasons, Linnea Designs, and Susan Wallace Barnes, formerly carried by Arthur Graham's. Owner Bill Hayes was kind to pass on this popular item to us and we will appreciate the opportunity to provide them to the many people



who like to give them as gifts. The calendars will be available in September.

DOG DAYS GARDEN TIPS

It is hot. Keep it in perspective; it is only hot air and most of us will live through it, even most of our plants. When the temperature rises into the 90's or even 100, plants wilt, can go into dormancy, stop blooming, and even drop their leaves trying to stay alive and cope with the heat. Keep your



garden looking good even in the hottest days of the year by following a few common sense tips.

Trim back excess growth from annuals in pots or hanging baskets. The plant will be more heat tolerant, able to generate more leaves and bloom again when the temperature drops. Trimming plants will also keep the garden's appearance neat and that is very important in hot weather.

Revitalize annuals with a dose of liquid fertilizer. Deadhead annuals and perennials to keep blooms coming and to keep plants healthy and attractive.

Trying to save money by not watering adequately is false economy; expensive plants could be lost, and dry, brown grass and plants make it seem even hotter. Water slowly and deeply. Water early in the morning so that plants can have a chance to absorb cool water and prepare for the heat that is to come later in the day. Something is wrong if you have to water plants more than once a day; the pot could be too small, you might not be watering long enough, well enough. It is important to water the soil beneath the plant. The plant absorbs water from the new roots that are around the outer edge of the plant itself. For plants that trail over the edge of a pot or window box, lift the bulk of the plant and water the soil until water runs through.

Watch for red spider mites in hot dry weather. Curling or dry leaf edges could be a sign of aphids or red spiders. Spray with mild insecticidal soap. If caught and treated early, plants can have a complete recovery.

This is the time to think about dividing and replanting bearded iris, peonies, and daylilies IF they are overgrown. Wait to actually divide them until September or October when the weather cools, to avoid stressing the plants or yourself.

Lawns need to be watered with **one inch** of water **twice** a week. Trees and mature plants need 1 ½ to 2 inches a week.

Continue fertilizing roses every 5 or 6 weeks.

AUGUST OUTDOORS

Summer heat requires special consideration in order to best enjoy your garden retreat.

Adding water elements to your garden will put moisture into the air and cool temperatures at least psychologically. Bird baths are one way to add water and the sound of nature to your garden, making it more enjoyable. A bird bath is not only attractive, but it ensures that birds are able to find enough fresh drinking and bathing water.



Fountains also add the lovely sound of splashing water. There is nothing more soothing and refreshing than the sound of water in the warm months.

Do garden chores early in the morning and entertain or relax in the garden at dusk. This can be a very special and beautiful time in the garden if you add plants and accessories to enrich the experience.



Evening garden flowers brighten the dark corners similar to shade garden plants. Silver and variegated foliage sparkle in the moonlight. Some flowers only open after dark, releasing their fragrance to night time pollinators like moths.

Petunias smell deliciously like cloves in the evening. Some evening plants to consider are Licorice, Lamb's Ear, Dusty Miller, Lavender, Artemisia, and chartreuse Sweet Potato vine. Blooming plants include Nicotiana, Moonflower, Angel's Trumpet, Four O'Clocks, Night Blooming Jessamine, Oriental Lily "Casa Blanca", and Gardenias. All of these are aromatic.

Torches, candle light, Japanese lanterns, or twinkle lights give a romantic glow to the evening garden, and some even repel insects. With a little forethought, insect repellent spray or a mosquito machine can rid your garden retreat of pests for hours if not forever.

Add color that is not in plant material. When plants stop blooming, colorful outdoor accessories will take their place, lifting sagging spirits. Sling chairs in summer stripes or plaids are comfortable and give a leisurely feel of the beach. Bright and cheerful pillows add comfort and color. Outdoor rugs feel nice and cool under bare feet and pull a seating area together, making it look very cozy. Garden flags add

movement and color; oilcloth tablecloths add visual interest and are carefree.

Wait until the sun is low in the sky, go outdoors with a refreshing, cool drink and enjoy yourself!

STORE SPECIALS

Come in to find Special Prices during the month of August, some fountains included. There are many new products that we want to order in the next few weeks, and there is not enough room for the larger pieces. This is opportunity knocking!

SEMINAR SERIES 2005

These seminars begin at 10:30 a.m. and are one hour in length, 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!

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| Sat., Aug. 27 | Linda Vater | "How to keep Your Garden Looking Good" |
| Fri., Sep. 16 | Linda Vater | "Container Gardening" |
| Sat., Oct. 15 | Linda Vater | "Bulbs" |

EXTERIOR DECORATING

This year give yourself a garden retreat, or refresh the one you have. In response to repeated requests, Wilshire Garden Market now provides an exterior decorating consultation service. By appointment and for a 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 more details or to set up an appointment.



Let us help you create your outdoor living room!

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M A R K E T



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