

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

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2821 Wilshire Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73116
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SUMMER MEANS FOUNTAINS

Summer is officially here according to both the calendar and the thermometer. One way to remain cool and calm is to be near the sound of gently splashing water coming from a fountain in a garden retreat. This is not a new sensation, but has been a way to escape the heat and find harmony for centuries. Recently it has been documented that moving water releases negative ions that bring tranquility to the mind.

Fountains did not originate as garden ornaments, but as that of necessity for household and livestock consumption. Around the world, as people found more time for leisure, the purpose of fountains shifted; they became objects of beauty and decoration in the garden, to enhance the tranquility and harmony of the home. Because of their hot and dry climate,



When acquiring a fountain, there are some factors to consider. How much space is available? What size

should the fountain be? Does the fountain complement the house and garden? Will the fountain be visible from all sides? Is there an outdoor power source? Is there easy access to the fountain for cleaning and maintenance? Will anything underneath or nearby be damaged by splashing water? Will the fountain be visible from a prominent window?

Once the location has been chosen, sketch out the area; consider what materials will be needed for the site such as sand, gravel, electrical outlets, or plant



material. Make sure that the fountain fits the area, both in design and size. If it is visible from all sides choose a fountain style that is round, oval, or is decorative on all sides. A fountain that has a flat back can be ideal for a fence or wall area. If working with limited space, a wall fountain could be a good selection.

A few simple procedures should keep a fountain running properly year round. Gently scrub the fountain basin free of algae once a month with a soft brush and 10:1 solution of water and bleach. When algae appear, pour in a capful of chlorine bleach; the small amount will evaporate quickly and is not harmful to birds or animals. Keep a small fishnet handy to skim leaf debris from the fountain



when tending to other garden chores. In the heat of the summer maintain the water level to ensure that it covers the pump. Winter care of fountains consists of draining water from the basin and removing the pump if feasible. When

the temperature dips below 32 degrees any water left in the fountain will expand and could crack the plastic casing of the pump or could cause freeze damage to the concrete. A clear plastic bag or cover will keep the fountain dry.



The fountains that Wilshire Garden Market carries are made by Campania International, the premier American cast stone company based in Pennsylvania. Many of their pieces are authorized replicas from gardens, arboretums, or estates. Always adding new products, their design group creates fountains of varying sizes and styles to fit any garden setting. A wide range of fountains are in stock, and it is

simple to place orders from the store catalog.

FAVORITE TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Gardening can be hard work, especially if the tools used do not fit the hand of the gardener or if the tool is not intended to do the particular job. Gardeners can be sentimental about their tools. They tell tool stories that date their lives, like the woman who bought her first pair of Felco pruners when she was working at her first job in a nursery, or the woman wanting to replace the broken shovel that her late mother had given to her. She felt that when she was using this shovel, her mother was there helping her. Some miraculous tools make hard jobs easier; they make the gardener feel more capable and self-assured.

A novice gardener may think that a pair of \$3.97 pruners is good enough. However, for those who have immeasurable time and money invested in the garden, Felcos are a better investment.



After years of use they can be relied upon to make clean cuts, a fact that is well

known among seasoned gardeners. There are reports of 15 year old Felcos having been stolen. Felcos come in different sizes to fit different hands. They are available for lefties and even those with arthritis. Their blade is made of high-quality hardened steel, each tool has a cutting adjustment, a sap groove that draws sap

from live wood away from the joint, a notch for cutting wire, a hand protecting cushion shock absorber, and the handles are ergonomically non-slip coated forged aluminum. This tool ensures that less effort is put into making cuts, allowing the owner to tackle jobs with confidence!



Joyce Chen scissors are exceptional light pruning tools for smaller jobs. Their sharp blades are finely honed chrome molybdenum stainless steel. The scissor tips have tapered points for precision deadheading and they easily reach deep into foliage. Their comfort coated handles flex with hand movement, for both right and left handed use. These scissors are superior because they can easily keep up with what the eye sees. Be assured that the first snip will do the job.

The hand rake can maneuver between plants and shrubs when a full headed rake is too large.



This precision rake is ideal for tidying the flowerbed without disturbing the mulch, allowing more control over what is raked. Customer feedback on this tool makes it a must in any garden tool arsenal.

Hand forged tools are a worthy investment. Hand forged tools such as the renowned disc weeder and perennial spade have a thinner edge than most of the inexpensive machine pressed tools that



allows them to slice into the ground, weeds, or to easily divide a perennial. The more hand forged



tools are used, the sharper they become; the small rocks in the soil act as sharpeners. When purchasing gardening tools, let the quality of the tool be the deciding factor, not the price. The right tool for the job, and a tool that fits the size of the gardener, will save backs, shoulders, and wrists. Cared for properly, these tools will last decades. Equipped with superior tools, the gardener can conquer any garden chore with confidence.

JULY TO DO LIST

- ✓ Deadhead spent blooms on annuals and perennials to encourage more flowering.
- ✓ Mulch to preserve soil moisture and add to the overall appearance of the garden.
- ✓ Sow sunflowers and vegetables for a nice fall garden.
- ✓ Lawns need watering; one inch per week for Bermuda grass; two inches per week for Fescue.
- ✓ Soak trees at the drip line with a gently flowing hose for two to three hours once a month during summer months.
- ✓ Water plants slowly and deeply but less often for deep root growth.

THE WATERING CAN SCOOP

Summer inevitably means more watering. Watering cans were the tool of choice for decades, long before modern plumbing and today's watering technology. Sometimes personally using a watering can is still necessary or preferable. Some people just like the look of watering cans because they lend character and personality to the garden vignette.



The watering can is simple in design. It is a round vessel with a handle and spout. The long spout and half cover on top keep the water from splashing out. On the end of the spout is a rose, a perforated disk

that delivers a large rain like spray that is effective in watering and fertilizing container plantings.

The average outdoor watering can has a 1.5 gallon capacity, or 12 pounds; easy enough to lift when full of water. There are normally two handles, one for lifting and one for tilting; they should be rolled on the edges for comfort. For watering hanging baskets, a lighter weight can with a very long spout is preferable. Watering cans are available in a plain galvanized finish, brightly colored enamel, gorgeous copper and brass, or unattractive plastic.

Watering with a watering can puts the gardener in touch with the plants, close enough to notice their condition, beauty, and scent. That's what gardening is all about.

SUMMER GARDEN GLOVES



These Weeder gloves are ideal for summer garden chores. They are light weight so they make hands feel cooler. Sensitive enough to pick up a dime, they are available in pink, lavender, and green.

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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| Fri., July 8 | Linda Vater | "Shade Gardening"
Includes a tour of Linda's Ornamental Vegetable Garden |
| 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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SUMMER SALE!!

**15% off storewide
More off Selected Items
Tuesday, July 5—Saturday, July 9**

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