WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

July, 2007 Newsletter
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CELEBRATING TEN YEARS

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Established 1997

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

Just as the right accessories can make an indoor room, accessories can make a garden look well put together and reveal much about the personality of the owner. Accessories range from statuary, planters, fountains, benches, sculpture, outdoor art, tools, outdoor rugs and pillows, to watering cans and bird houses. With so many options from which to choose, it is a good idea to start with a few focal points.

Look through your front door from the inside out to see what your guests see when coming and going. An attractive mailbox, doormat, and appropriately sized pots planted with fragrant, colorful blooms are the signs of a well cared for home.

Look at the garden through several predominant windows from inside the house. Is there something outside in the garden that acts as a focal point? Utilize the window looking out into the garden as another indoor accessory, a landscape painting in a frame. If there is nothing attractive in the window view then add something that is large enough to be easily seen. A fountain, bird bath, a pot or grouping of pots, or an outdoor art piece are a few accessories that can be added for interest. A fountain may be enjoyed from inside the house as well as from outdoors.

Watching the birds frequent the bird bath is just as delightful from a breakfast room window as it is when you are outside in the garden. An ideal place for a beautiful bird bath would be outside a window under a tree so that the water remains cooler and the birds can retreat to the tree branches if they become alarmed.

An outdoor art piece remains in full color year round despite the temperature (high or low) and amount of rainfall or ice. There are hundreds of outdoor art images in subjects from contemporary to landscape to impressionism, something for every taste and every style. Of any exterior decorating accessory, the outdoor art is the most similar to interior decorating. It would be very barren to have no art on the interior walls; once art is added outdoors, it is an obvious improvement. The subject matter and color hues can serve as inspiration for the color echoes of nearby furniture, cushions, pots, and plantings.

Garden accents should be incorporated into the flower bed. A container can be placed among plants and filled with the same combination of plant material or other plants in the same color family. Even an empty glazed terra cotta pot can be used as a garden accessory. Choose a pot in a color that complements the surrounding plants or one that contrasts.

When considering the addition of an accessory to your garden, think big and small. Not only do you want to be able to see some ornaments from inside, it is fun to come across a small statue tucked among attractive plants. It is an enchanting surprise to discover a tiny statue of a turtle, bunny, frog or bird in a flower bed or tucked into the side of a container. The colorful ceramic toadstools coordinate well in planters or in the garden with spring and summer blooms.

It is also fun to create a small garden vignette where only the observant guest will find it. Try to look at your garden as though you were a guest; be bold, add color, try new things, and move old ornaments to new places. Have fun with your garden

THE OVERGROWN GARDEN

The rain has fallen so copiously this spring that the roses have never bloomed more profusely, the fruit trees are bountiful; branches, stems, and vines are vigorously long and intruding on their neighbors' spaces. The luxuriant garden is losing its shape.

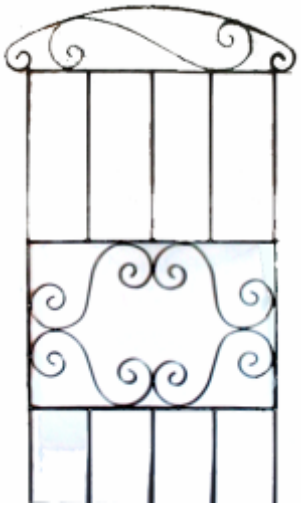
Some plants need to be pruned and some need to be supported. Late bloomers or historically floppy plants like asters or sedums can be maintained at a shorter height to avoid the need for staking. Snipping plants such as these back by a third now in early summer will make a shorter, bushier habit and have little impact on bloom.

Now is definitely the time to stay on top of deadheading. It encourages more blooms, promotes bushier growth, and redirects the plant's energy to healthy growth rather than to seed production. Joyce Chen garden scissors are the scissors of choice for deadheading and light pruning; their long, thin blades can reach into perennials and roses, and the blades remain sharp.

Green metal plant supports can also keep large flopping perennials upright and in their own space. Half round border supports or bendable sections of low ornamental garden fence can corral clumps of Veronica, Achillea, or perennial Hibiscus. Single stakes can support a new rose stem overloaded with multiple open blooms heavy laden with rain. Round grids, or grow through heads, on leg supports can hold up any tall plant with blooms. Topiary forms can support plants in containers or directly from the ground.

TRELLIS, TRELLIS ON THE WALL

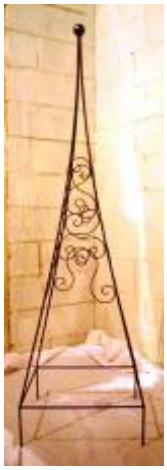
Gardens need vertical features for interest and balance. It can be difficult to remember to incorporate vertical features or to know exactly where and when to add them, but those vertical elements are often the most striking focal points of a garden.



A trellis is an attractive and effective way to add vertical garden interest on a fence or wall while serving the purpose of supporting a valued climbing plant. Trellises can hide an unattractive feature such as a utility meter or pond pump; a trellis planted with flowering vines may be placed against a wall to break up a large expanse of brick. Wilshire Garden Market has been working with a local vendor for several years to design unique trellises in a variety of sizes.

Dimensional trellis forms will stand on their own to support plant material. A rose dome is a very useful structure that will support climbing roses in the garden. Rose domes come in several different heights to accommodate any space or plant. Domes can be ordered with a narrower diameter to be used with clematis or other more delicate vines.

Rose umbrellas are romantic vertical structures that display a climbing rose in such a manner that actually helps the rose to bloom; the canes follow the horizontal portion, allowing sunlight to reach more of the branches and helping the rose put on a beautiful show of blooms.



The topiary tower is another dimensional trellis that can be used in the garden. These are the most attractive towers to be found. They are available in 4′, 5′, or 6′ heights. When exposed to the elements, the steel structures quickly patina to a beautiful earthy brown. Towers can be used by themselves singly, in pairs, or groups of three to support plant growth, as garden structure, or wrapped with lights for romantic evening focal points. They can be pressed directly over a plant in the ground, situated over a decorative planter, or rest in the top of a large planter.

JULY TO DO LIST

- Give plants mid-season feeding.
- Replace mulch as needed.
- Keep lawns at about 3″ to protect from heat.
- Clean bird baths and bird feeders.
- Dead head regularly.
- Cut back spent annuals by 1/3.
- Pinch back fall blooming plants like mums and asters.
- Divide iris.

EXTERIOR DECORATING

Give yourself or someone else) a garden retreat, or update an existing one. Wilshire Garden Market provides an exterior decorating consultation service. We carry several lines of fine quality furniture including cast aluminum with stone or aluminum table tops and teak, both complete with beautiful outdoor upholstery. Come in and browse our fabric swatches and catalogs. 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!

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July is the New June

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