July, 2009 Newsletter Vol. 6, No. 6 CELEBRATING 12 YEARS 2821 Wilshire Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73116 (405) 879-1121 <u>www.wilshiregardenmarket.com</u> Established 1997

THE GARDEN SPRINGS TO LIFE

July is a warm month. After all, it is summer. When we are too warm, we want to feel cooler and the sight and sound of falling water in a fountain always makes us feel cooler and calmer. The word "fountain' is derived from the Latin word fontis, meaning spring; aaahhh, I feel cooler already.

The garden provides a myriad of situations where a fountain can be beneficial. With its flowing water, a fountain can fill a lifeless corner, add sparkle to a pathway, serenely grace the center of your garden, and



accessorize your patio. The sight and sound of the bubbling, trickling, splashing, or cascading water are enjoyable in any garden vignette. Fountains can be connected to sprinkler systems for refilling.



Regardless of its size, a fountain can be useful. A very small fountain placed on a nearby table soothes and relaxes an outdoor reader, making precious solitary moments even more enjoyable. A fountain at the front entry welcomes guests with tranquil ambiance.

There is a fountain for every garden style and taste from contemporary, Zen-like, naturally simple, and traditional, to classic.



Fountains can have the lasting beauty and allure of the ages, charming all who visit your garden. A walled garden with fountain becomes your own cool green Birds haven. and butterflies are attracted to moving water,

adding further beauty and life to the garden.

Often a tiered fountain is needed as a focal point. In

windy areas it is wise to consider the fountain's exposure and the size and depth of the bowl. Fountains help enhance the garden environment, turing the beauty of sculpture while incorporating intricacy and complexity of interest. The gentle sounds contribute to a soothing atmosphere. Regardless of size or the style, a



fountain provides the finishing touch to any garden!

FOUNTAIN PUMP MAINTENANCE 101

Gardens seem more beautiful and summer heat cooler with the gently splashing sound of water coming from a fountain. If the gently splashing water slows to a sluggish trickle, makes a grinding noise, or stops altogether, anxiety sets in. What to do?

Water pumps are relatively simple mechanisms that have very few parts. With proper care, the average pump should last for several years. If a pump is working at all, if it makes any noise or vibrates, it is not broken; it could be clogged with mineral deposits, sediment, pieces of mosquito dunks, leaves, or algae that can collect in the filter intake area. Before declaring a pump dead, check cords and the reset button on the electrical outlet.

The following tips and accompanying images will demystify fountain pumps, allowing the owner to feel more confident that water soon will be splashing freely once again.

If possible, remove the pump from the fountain, or at least unplug the pump and bring it above the water. Then, remove the cover from the end of the pump case.





Once the cover has been removed, pull out the sponge-like filter and rinse it clean. With the cap removed, the impeller (the fanlike component) is accessible. The impeller

is magnetized, so expect to feel slight resistance.

Remove the impeller from the pump by hand. If the pump has been performing poorly, it is likely that sediment and mineral deposits will



be encrusted around the magnetic cylinder.

Gently rinse the impeller with water and check for rough feeling mineral deposits. If mineral deposits are excessive, soak the impeller for 20 minutes in a 50/50 solution of purified water and C.L.R., available at most grocery and hardware stores. Gentle brushing of the pump with an old toothbrush is also an option in the cleaning process. With a garden hose or faucet, rinse the inside of the pump to make sure that no particles remain.

Replace the impeller and any other components just as they were removed from the pump. Before assuming that it will work, either submerge the pump in a bucket of water or in the fountain under enough water to cause the pump to work correctly.

If it sounds like the pump is running, but little if any water is flowing, tap the pump gently but firmly against the side of the bucket or fountain to kick start the impeller in case it is stuck or to dislodge any small piece of debris that might still be lurking inside.

If the pump still does not work, it may actually be burned out, and a new one should be purchased.

Pumps must always be completely covered with water in order to work properly. If a pump is allowed to run dry, it will overheat and burn out. Water must be clean and free of debris. A small fish net is an excellent tool for removing even minute pieces of debris and sediment that can clog pumps.

The water level and quality should be checked daily in hot weather. Small or shallow fountains that are frequented by many birds should be turned on primarily when someone is there to enjoy them.

Just before the weather turns cold, drain the water from the fountain. Remove the decorative finial, if applicable, and use the pump itself to remove most of the water. Use a leaf blower to blow out the remaining water. Remove the pump or elevate it to keep it out of potential ice. Try to keep the fountain empty and dry during the winter. Place a few evergreen boughs in the basin to deflect the stress of any frozen moisture; they look nice, too.

Fear not, relax and enjoy the cool, soothing sounds of gently splashing water!

IT'S HOT, HOT, HOT! SO IS CONTAINER GARDENING

Container gardening has gained greater popularity year by year and shows no signs of slowing.

Glazed terra cotta planters are popular because of their wide range of available colors that can be planted with flowers and foliage in comple-



mentary tones. They have proven themselves to be winter durable; lighter weight than cast stone, they add color year round, even in the winter.

It is simple to plant a patio tomato and salad herbs along with edible flowers such as nasturtiums in a glazed terra cotta or cast stone container. Other vegetables such as eggplants noticeably are beautiful planted a container with contrasting and complementary foliage, edible or not. Adorned with a



stylish topiary form to support the tomato, it is extremely attractive as well as delicious.

JULY 2009 TO DO LIST

- Keep deadheading.
- Replenish mulch
- Water deeply.
- Keep grass 3" high to protect from heat.
- Keep bird baths full of clean water.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE STORE



Our French bistro furniture in shimmering colors cultivates gracious living. The new cobalt blue has quickly become a best selling color, second only to aniseed green. Environmentally friendly furniture, it is designed to live in nature. The factory in France is dedicated to environmentalism; over 95% of the iron has been recycled; other materials may be recycled in the future. Paints do not contain heavy metals and the painting process is part of a non-pollution chain. Fashionable, comfortable, and durable, it also has an environmental conscience!

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!

WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM





HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!
SUMMER IS MARVELOUS!