

WILSHIRE GARDEN M A R K E T

June 2004 Newsletter

2821 Wilshire Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73116
(405) 879-1121 www.wilshiregardenmarket.com

SAVE YOUR GARDEN THIS SUMMER!



It has been said by a world renowned garden designer that if you can have a garden in Oklahoma, you can have a garden anywhere. This is attributable to the havoc Oklahoma summers can wreak on beautiful plants and their owners if they are not well trained in summer garden defense tactics. We celebrate the first day of summer, aka Summer Solstice; the longest day of the year, on June 21, so now is the time to prepare.

The lack of adequate rainfall, coupled with weeks (and weeks) of scorching summer heat, make even the most courageous of Oklahoma gardeners weary of hauling around water hoses. However, there are a few preventative steps that gardeners can take to keep plants looking healthy even in the hottest Oklahoma weather.

Well drained soil is a key element in successful gardening, fortified with plenty of nutritious amendments like alfalfa, manure, and other composted materials that keep soil rich and friable. Much needed water can be wasted if it runs off rather than soaking in to nourish and revive parched plants.

Properly installed and properly used sprinkler systems are lifesavers for the lawn and garden. Homeowners will have better results if they learn and adopt proper watering practices. Whether watering with the sprinkler system or by hand with the garden hose or watering can, early morning watering will allow maximum absorption by lawn and plants and reduce the chance of fungal infection. Water droplets on plant leaves will have enough time to dry before the sun can cause leaf burn; water droplets act as magnifying glasses, intensifying the sun's rays to burn disfiguring spots into the leaves of plants.

Watering slowly, deeply, less often will cause deeper root growth, making plants more tolerant of hot temperatures. When watering window boxes, or planters, water slowly and deeply. Lift up foliage to water underneath the leaves and around the outer edges so that the water reaches the new tender ends of the roots where water is absorbed. If a thirsty friend asked for a beverage, you would offer them a drink from a glass, not splash them in the face with it.



A watering can with a rose attachment on the spout is the best tool for watering container plantings. The rose attachment distributes the water evenly in a light, generous shower, so that the plants can absorb water efficiently. Adding

Miracle Grow or compost tea to the water will give superior results. Choose pots large enough to support the plants within, and choose plants appropriate for the location, whether shady or sunny. Use good potting soil; there are "smart" soils that contain time released plant food and moisture retaining gel crystals.

Mulch is an absolute necessity to keep soil cooler, retain moisture, and block the growth of weeds. Best results are obtained by using two or three inches of mulch in the garden border. Finely chipped dark pine bark mulch from Arkansas is very attractive, resembling rich dark soil. Composted cottonseed hulls enriched with manure is a good soil conditioner and mulch that furnishes food for beneficial micro organisms. It can be dug into the soil as enrichment after the scorching summer months are over and the garden is undergoing fall cleanup. Either cocoa hulls or green sheet moss is attractive mulch for containers, also preventing soil and water from being splashed back on leaves.

Adopt smart gardening techniques and have a more beautiful summer garden!

CONTAINER GARDENING

Container gardening is ideal for all gardens and gardeners. From a tiny apartment balcony to a spacious landscape, container gardening allows you to create a micro-garden in a controlled environment and still have the satisfaction of a large cutting garden.



Containers can be pots, hanging baskets, window boxes, or found objects. For a small patio you might choose a window box to hang on a wall or a hanging basket in order to have color at eye level, fill in a blank space, without taking up floor space. Pots are suitable for patios or decks. Lushly planted, they also add the welcoming softness of color at the front entry. A pot or a found object such as a chimney pot placed in a garden border will add height and color beyond the existing flower line. A teacup on the kitchen windowsill can serve as a miniature container for violets, tiny succulents, or creeping thyme.

After the container has been selected, the growing conditions should be assessed. To create unusual containers with a mix of colors and texture, try mixing herbs, grasses, or ground covers with the usual annuals. Read plant labels to make sure all plants have similar growing requirements.

A planter with darker colors for full sun might contain burgundy sun coleus, sorrel, blue fescue grass, burgundy coreopsis, yellow osteospermum, and "Blackie" sweet potato vine. A brightly colored sun planter might contain pink geranium, terracotta million bells, Scaevola, rose moss, trailing pink or purple Wave petunias, and a chartreuse sun coleus. For a shade loving container try dragon's wing begonia, chartreuse shade coleus, caladiums, impatiens, and California ivy.

Start off with a good potting soil each year; fresh soil will have the proper pH balance and enough nutrients to sustain plants throughout the season. There are a number of soils available now that contain fertilizers and even water retaining polymers that are added bonuses. If the soil does not contain fertilizer, invest in some time released fertilizer. Mix it into the soil prior to planting; it slowly releases its magic throughout the season. Once plants are in place, top off the soil with attractive mulch. It will reduce moisture evaporation and keep the soil cooler.

To keep plants looking fresh, periodically cut off dead blooms (deadhead) and trim back leggy branches, especially in the hottest days of the summer. Water plants deeply, with an occasional use of Miracle Grow, for superb results throughout the season.

PALUSKA POTTERY

Wilshire Garden Market is honored to feature hand thrown terracotta by talented local potter Mike Paluska.



His earthenware pottery is functional garden ware. Like traditional English frost proof terracotta, these pots are fired to 2160 degrees. This partially vitrifies the clay, yet leaves it porous enough for air to reach the roots of plants and for moss and algae to grow on the surface. In time, these pieces can attain a much sought after aged patina. The pots come in a variety of shapes; the toad houses, complete with tiny chimneys and window panes are very popular.

These pieces are wonderful to own or they make very nice gifts. In the near future, Wilshire Garden Market will carry exclusive terracotta pottery designs by Mike Paluska.

SPECIAL OF THE MONTH

Celebrate June with 20% savings on all **POTS** at Wilshire Garden Market, while supplies last. See our article on Container Gardening and create your own beautiful planters at 20% savings!

FATHER'S DAY GIFT IDEAS

Father's Day is June 20. Fathers appreciate gifts from Wilshire Garden Market! If your husband or father likes to spend time outdoors or in the garden, treat him to some of our beautiful and very useful gifts. Of course we will provide free gift wrapping and, with 24 hour notice, free delivery of large items.

- Thermometer, clock, rain gauge, hygrometer
- Toad House by Mike Paluska
- Felco pruners, hand tools, or gloves
- Bird bath or fountain
- Garden bench
- Personalized, laser engraved garden stone. Affordable pricing depends on the length of inscription and stone weight. Allow one week for delivery of this memorable gift!

WHAT'S NEW??

- Darling folding sling chairs with weather-proof, fade proof colorful polyester canvas with coordinating pillows



- Tall iron garden stakes with stained glass and glass components
- Glazed terra cotta pots in new shapes and colors
- Toad houses by Mike Paluska in high fired terra cotta
- Copper loop garden fencing is back in stock.
- A new supply of outdoor plastic **Turkish rugs** 6' x 9' or 3' x 6' in aqua; 6' x 9' in blue or plum

"There are no mistakes in gardening, only experiments."

SEMINAR SERIES 2004

Please notice a date change for the June garden seminar. On **Friday, June 11**, Linda Vater will be presenting "Shade Gardening", previously scheduled for June 5. In this seminar Linda will discuss how to select plants that will thrive in shady conditions, wet or dry, to beautify shady areas in the garden. The seminar will be held at Wilshire Garden Market.



The seminars begin at 10:30 and last for an hour, depending on the number of questions. The fee is \$10 per person and seating is somewhat limited, so call now to reserve your spot. Please join us!

The 2004 series is as follows:

June 11	Shade Gardening
July 16	Flower Arranging
Sept. 25	Container Gardening

Door prizes are given at each seminar!

EXTERIOR DECORATING

In response to repeated requests, Wilshire Garden Market now provides an exterior decorating consultation service. By appointment and for a nominal fee, we will make a one hour consultation followed by written suggestions to make your garden retreat more charming, cohesive, useful, and harmonious. We also plant pots or window boxes. Call the store for more details or to set up an appointment.



Let us help you create your outdoor living room!

HTTP://WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM
HTTP://WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM
HTTP://WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM
HTTP://WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM
HTTP://WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM
HTTP://WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM
HTTP://WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM
HTTP://WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM
HTTP://WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM
HTTP://WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM
HTTP://WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM
HTTP://WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM
HTTP://WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM
HTTP://WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM
HTTP://WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM



Father's Day Gift Ideas Inside!



Wilshire Garden Market
2821 West Wilshire Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
