

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

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CELEBRATING 11 YEARS

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Established 1997

GOOD NEWS! THIS IS THE YEAR FOR BEAUTY!

This month is always exciting because the first day of spring is March 21, just a few short weeks away. Everyone is eager to put the memories of the dread ice storm and its ugly aftermath behind us and welcome warm air and the color green. Now is the best time to make plans for outdoor living areas and entertaining outdoors.

Outdoor living has become a way of life, dominating home and garden magazines and how-to television programs. Outdoor living offers comfort beyond the old concepts of normal landscaping, the extra touches that give a luxurious feel to an otherwise sterile concrete slab patio.

Perhaps you want to have a lush, full garden that you imagine in your mind's eye or have a lovely place where you can sip your morning coffee leisurely. Surrounding yourself with beauty contributes significantly to your well being and is relatively easy to achieve. Make this the year the year that you take action to make your garden retreat more beautiful, a place where you will want to spend time. Visualize yourself entertaining in your garden, put it on the calendar, and call your friends. If you organize your ideas and take action NOW, you can accomplish it.



In warm weather, welcome guests to your entry with pleasantly scented plants, such as roses, jasmine, or herbs.

Begin at your front door. Make sure that it represents you as you wish to be represented. Attractive door-mats, along with attractive containers full of live plants contribute to welcoming entries.



Before making changes, look at your garden retreat from indoors. Create vistas using doors and windows as picture frames. Mark entrances or exits with a pair of large containers.



A garden is an extension of your home; use it as a second living room, an area for entertaining. If you were decorating indoors, you would always include furniture, so invest in quality garden furnishings to complement your home. Comfortable benches and chairs make you want to linger outdoors. The addition of beautiful outdoor pillows and an outdoor rug or two can provide much of the color and comfort that you desire and they will last for years. Add a few planters with evergreens or flowers to complete the patio.



Exterior house walls, fences, or shrubs can form walls of outdoor rooms or vertical elements can give the illusion of a wall. Trellises and topiary forms add height and visual interest, acting as focal points. Now is the time to add structural “bones” to the landscape, before existing deciduous plants leaf out.



Place large pots, planted, unplanted, or full of water, in the flower beds as a focal point, or a water feature to fill an empty space. If there is a problem area in the garden, often a container planting can solve the problem without the effort of digging.

Create a floor from concrete, flagstone, or crushed rock; spread outdoor rugs under furniture groupings to create inviting conversation areas. Embellishments such as outdoor rugs, pillows, tablecloths, and beautiful containers full of plants soften the hard surfaces of your home and patio, beckoning you to spend more time outdoors.

Natural elements belong in your garden: the moving water of fountains, illustrate wind with wind chimes or a flag. Include a device to measure time, such as a sundial, circular objects, such as gazing balls or ceramic spheres. Rejuvenation can be represented by bamboo planted in a container, and incorporate one or more bird baths to attract birds to the garden. Remember, this is the year for action!



WHAT'S NEW IN THE STORE

Pillows, pillows, pillows! Our company's artist has designed dozens of new styles and color combinations to mix and match with each other and previous favorites as well as our outdoor rugs. Come in early to get the jump on



spring decorating.

St. Patrick's Day flags are in, as well as Easter flags. Even



if you are only Irish on St. Patrick's Day, show your Irish spirit by flying a clover-leaf flag, hat flag, or bouquet of clovers flag. Easter is a very early March 23 this year, so an extra spot of color may be needed to grace outdoor



egg hunts. Flags with darling rabbits, Easter eggs, and spring flowers are now available. More eggs are here in the form of deli-

cious French soaps; they make a beautiful grown up surprise gift.

New botanical beeswax candles have arrived in delicious spring floral scents. Honeysuckle orange blossom is embedded generously with a multitude of pink, yellow, and white flowers in the outer beeswax shell.



Shown here, nectarine and ginger lily is new this season; it has an oval shape.

BEST SPRING GARDEN TOOLS

Think about the spring garden. There are fall leaves to remove, herbaceous perennial debris to trim and remove, cleaning underneath and between shrubs, roses, making way for new growth, and ultimately planting newly acquired shrubs, perennials, or annuals. A variety of hand tools is required to accomplish the job easily.



The hand rake is indispensable for clearing dead leaves and trimmings from tight places underneath shrubs and between annuals and perennials. They have an exclusive anti-fatigue handle design. The beautiful rosewood finished beech handle is sculpted for comfort. Their round tines and narrow width allow for easy debris removal without harming tender plants. They come with a durable, leather hanging strap. Customers rave about this handy tool. These handsome hand rakes are made in England.

The Joyce Chen Unlimited Garden Scissor is ideal for trimming and deadheading annuals, perennials, and roses. They have durable, long, narrow blades for precision cuts even deep within a plant's foliage. Joyce Chens are made for both right and left handed gardeners; the flexible handles are comfortable and a joy to use. The Joyce Chen scissors are made in Japan.



The gardener's best friend, high performance Felco pruners are the Rolls Royce of pruners. With a lifetime guarantee, this is the only pruner that you will ever need to purchase. A Swiss made bypass pruner for live wood, they are useful for making clean cuts up to one and one-half inches in



diameter. They are spring loaded for ease in continued use; other features include a thumb operated lock, a notch for cutting wire, a sap groove to draw sticky sap away from the axis. They are available in different styles to accommodate lefties, a lighter version for women, ergonomic, and more.

PERENNIAL OF THE YEAR



The 2008 perennial of the year is Geranium 'Rozanne.' It produces 2.5" violet-blue flowers with purple-violet veins, blooming from June until frost. It has a mounding form with deep green leaves marbled with chartreuse; the foliage turns reddish in the fall. Plants at maturity reach 18"-20" tall and have a spread of 24"-28". Heat tolerant, 'Rozanne' is good at the front of the border or as a groundcover.

When placed in containers, window boxes, or raised bed, it trails beautifully. It can be used to fill in around taller plants and will provide month after month of color. No deadheading or midsummer pruning is required.

Not tender, hardy geraniums are perennial. They perform well in average to moist, well drained soil, with full sun to a half day of sun or bright shade. This geranium is not a new plant; however growers want to remind gardeners of its favorable qualities. Try it!

MARCH 2008 TO DO LIST

- Check shrubs, trees for winter damage.
- Trim ornamental grasses before they grow.
- Apply cottonseed meal to azaleas for nitrogen.
- Start seeds indoors.

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!

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M A R K E T



Easter is on the Way!

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