

# WILSHIRE GARDEN M A R K E T

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## CONTAINERS OF CHOICE

Several gardening magazines in New York City recently requested that we send them plant containers to be photographed for their spring issues; we decided to write our own container article as well. Years ago we found a manufacturer of fine cast stone planters based in Pennsylvania, home of some of the oldest estate gardens and arboretums in the nation. The prestigious Longwood Gardens and Morris Arboretum have allowed the company to reproduce planters and other pieces from their collections. We appreciate being an authorized dealer so that we can bring beautiful containers and garden accents to Oklahoma gardens.

Across the nation, containers have become the hottest garden product. They are popular because they are an attractive adornment for home and garden, they can be moved if necessary, and they provide an exclusive environment where plants can thrive. Containers provide opportunities for spectacular planting results in small spaces.

More often than not, the most appealing homes will have containers that are complementary in size, material, and design. When reviewing your home for the coming season, begin from the street and study the entry. This is the most important area of your home.

If it lacks balance or seems unfinished, often what is needed is a pair of adequately sized planters that complement the style of the home. Properly chosen containers can dramatically improve the appearance of the entry. Cast stone planters lend a feeling of dignity, elegance, and age to a home with a traditional design.



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A Georgian style home could use large classic planters with a coin design or classic urns to mark the entry and echo the home's architectural details. This urn is a replica from the Longwood Gardens Centennial collection



A pair of English weave planters are perfect for the entry of this Tudor revival home, or as decoration on

the patio. The weave design echoes the wood trim on the home; the various stains available for these cast stone planters give them the look of century old antiques.



The prairie style home is based on Frank Lloyd Wright's distinctive American design concept. The decoration and shape of the Prairie style urn below



reflects the shape of the columns; its size is adequate for the size of the home. This cast stone urn is a rep-

lica of an antique from the Morris Arboretum in Pennsylvania.

When shopping for new containers, demand quality. Look for planters that complement popular postmodern home styles in the April newsletter.



## OUTDOOR LIVING

### WE ARE IN AN OUTDOOR RENAISSANCE

What is outdoor living? It is featured on the front of every home and garden magazine. The answer is that it is the entire backyard package. It conveys comfort and beauty beyond the landscape, the extra touches that give a luxurious feel to an otherwise sterile concrete slab patio. Do you have a comfortable place for your family and guests to sit and enjoy themselves? Do you provide cushions, pillows, and a convenient place for your guests to set their drinks? Do you have attractive pots filled with thriving plants for the appropriate season? Do you hear the soothing sound of a fountain or wind chime, or do you hear the noise of the nearby highway or rowdy neighbor kids?

More and more homeowners have been creating casual environments in their backyards, entire outdoor kitchens and entertainment centers, havens where they can connect with family and friends. What can the average homeowner do to create an outdoor living area besides build an entire room? Create the *illusion* of a room by strategically placing good sized containers planted with evergreens to make living walls with a view. To help complete the effect, colorful outdoor rugs recently have become available, and outdoor weatherproof artwork featuring hundreds of images was introduced last summer. Color coordinated, fade resistant cushions and pillows are available for your furniture. Voila, instant comfort!

*Spring is nature's way of saying "let's party!"*  
(ROBIN WILLIAMS)

Setting a table can't be much more fun than this. The



first wave of outdoor living table linens has just arrived. Your table (outdoors or indoors) will be simply in style with the 60"x 60" or 60"x 90" soft cotton cloths that

blend with virtually every color scheme, and some even have ruffles. Our new multi colored geranium leaf dinner plates and striped salad plates will carry the garden theme easily through any brunch. We selected coordinating napkins in mix and match polka dots, paisleys, and floral styles that are so appealing you will have a party every time you use them! Thank heavens for spring!

## 2006 PERENNIAL OF THE YEAR

*Dianthus gratianopolitanus* 'Feuerhexe' (Firewitch) has been chosen the 2006 perennial plant of the



year. The genus *Dianthus* is a member of the Caryophyllaceae family, which includes flowers such as carnations, sweet Williams, and pinks. *Dianthus*, a native flower from the Mediterranean, derives its name from the Greek

words "dios" meaning God and "anthos" meaning the divine flower; which indicates that this flower was the flower of a god. 'Firewitch' is one of the Cheddar pinks. The Cheddar Gorge in the southwest of England is one of the places where it grows wild; also the word pinks refers to either the way that the petal edge appears to have been cut with pinking shears, or that they bloom around the time of the Pentecost (the German word *Pfingsten*). This dianthus has bluish-gray, silvery evergreen foliage, and purplish-pink flowers with an enticing spicy clove-like scent. These low growing plants are excellent for sunny pathways, borders, rock gardens, or wall crevices. After the initial blooming in mid-spring trimming spent blooms will promote a second wave of blooms from summer to fall. It is hardy from zones 3 to 9.

## YOU'LL BE KNOCKED OUT

Good news! A Double Knock Out rose is being introduced this spring. For those who are hesitant to try growing a rose, this is all the encouragement you should need.

Knock Outs have cherry colored blooms nearly all year round and are known to bloom even in mild shade. They are virtually pest



free and extremely disease resistant. Knock Out roses are tougher than other roses in drought and humidity, and now their blooms will be more lush and full to boot. Try growing these roses in a pair of lovely large containers as colorful scented focal points to mark your garden's entry.



## BEST NEW PLANTS 2006



Here are some new selections to look for this spring. 'Zowie! Yellow Flame' zinnia is a two foot tall zinnia with a scarlet-colored center and yellow petals that reach up to 4 inch diameter. This annual is

a great addition to a cutting garden or border. Imagine a bouquet with these as a focal point.



The new dwarf Red-Leaved peach tree is a sure eye-catcher in the garden. In spring, 'Bonfire' has double pink flowers, and long, thin dark red leaves that add color throughout the season. This makes an excellent patio container plant or small ornamental tree for the yard.

## MARCH TO DO LIST

- Lift and divide herbaceous perennials, remove old stalks.
- Plant new lily-of-the-valley pips, ranunculus tubers, and lily bulbs.
- Fertilize the soil around the base of lilacs and primroses, and other early bloomers.
- Mix in compost, manure and other amendments in planting areas.
- Begin weeding to avoid the spring rush.
- Clip back ground covers to encourage dense growth. Add compost and lightly feed with a fertilizer.
- Watch for aphids, red spider, and other bothersome pests.

## SEMINAR SERIES 2006

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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|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Sat., Mar. 11  | Linda Vater | "Gardening Fundamentals"         |
| Sat., April 8  | Linda Vater | "Curb Appeal and Seasonal Color" |
| Sat., May 6    | Linda Vater | "Roses"                          |
| Fri., June 2   | Linda Vater | "Container Gardening"            |
| Sat., July 8   | Linda Vater | "Shade Gardening"                |
| August         | Linda Vater | SKIP IT! TOO HOT!                |
| Sat., Sept. 16 | Linda Vater | "Best Foundation Plants"         |
| Fri., Oct. 13  | Linda Vater | "Bulb Container Gardening"       |

**You can get interesting garden information by watching Linda Vater's garden segments on the KFOR-TV4 4:45 News with Linda Cavanaugh every Friday.**



## 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!**

