

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

May, 2005 Newsletter
Vol. 2, No. 4

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Established 1997

CREATING A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN

There can never be enough beautiful gardens. The goal of the gardener is to create his or her own paradise; often this perfection is elusive or prohibited by obstacles. It takes time, money, and planning to create a beautiful garden.

Planning is a key element to a successful garden; inadequate planning is the main reason that so many gardens fall short of their potential. A landscape architect, qualified landscaper or garden designer can create a plan that causes the homeowner to consider how the area will be used, the most likely foot traffic patterns, focal points, color and style preferences. Before hiring anyone, interview several to determine if your vision and theirs meet, check references, and compare prices.

Whether you plan to be your own contractor, or you plan to hire the work done, establish a budget that is affordable, even if it takes several years to reach completion. Recognize that this is an investment in your home and your lifestyle and do not skimp. It is better to use one year's budget for one area of a garden that looks superb. This is a good choice because a garden evolves over time. The way you use your garden may change and it also takes time to determine which plants will thrive.

Elements other than plants factor into the garden composition. Repetition of architectural elements fosters a feeling of harmony; try to repeat a shape or a theme from the home into the garden. If there is a round window, repeat a round window in a trellis or a gate. Study the rhythm, flow, and balance of your garden. Is all of the visual interest on one side? Try to balance the garden so that both sides "weigh" the same. Some gardens have an important area on only one side, making them seem incomplete.

Repetition of plant materials conveys harmony, gives rhythm to the garden, and is soothing to the eye. Think of your garden in three dimensional terms, not just ground level, for depth of interest. Generally, plants should be placed in groups of at least three if space permits. Vary the leaf sizes from

small to large, and fernlike to strappy shapes for textural richness. If there is a strong feature on the left, balance it with a strong feature on the right, and connect them visually and physically.

It is important to consider the view of the garden from indoors as well as outdoors. The view from the main exit from the home should be the primary focal point as it is also the entrance into the garden. That is the ideal place for an important feature such as a beautiful bird bath, fountain, bench, or other special garden accessory. Look at the garden from other windows and imagine what can be done to enhance the view.

Over the years at Wilshire Garden Market, we have had the privilege of being invited to view some of our customers' gardens. This spring we came upon the garden of Bob Corcoran, whose garden is so well executed that we asked if we could share it in our newsletter. Bob Corcoran tells everyone who



visits his garden, "For good design, I say it's all in the layering. Start with your hardscape, then trees,

shrubs, perennials and annuals, but don't forget about your furnishings, ground covers, and garden art to complete the look."



After you feel that your garden area is "finished", please find time to use it every chance that you get. It is a lifestyle that you deserve to enjoy.

MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 8

Mother's Day is held at a beautiful time of year, when the weather is warm but not hot and flowers are blooming with vigor.

In 1872, Julia Ward Howe, an American writer, lecturer, and reformer who also wrote the words to the Battle Hymn of The Republic, first suggested that a day be set aside to honor Mothers. She suggested that it be observed on June 2, as a day dedicated to peace. President Woodrow Wilson was authorized to proclaim Mother's Day as an annual holiday in 1915.

In the U.K., Mothering Sunday was held on March 6. Other European countries celebrate with the U.S. on the second Sunday in May.

Wilshire Garden Market is a primary destination for Mother's Day gifts. Choose from the following and much more!

- Bunny statues.
- Garden stones etched with sayings such as "Mom's Garden", "Welcome", "Love", "Joy", "Grow".
- Charming bird baths in a variety of sizes, shapes, and finishes.
- Whimsical and colorful ceramic toadstools.
- Colorful retro sling chairs!



- Hats and gloves in shades of pink, purple, or green for UV and thorn protection.
- Carefree and colorful outdoor pillows in oilcloth or polyester.
- Cute little citronella candles in galvanized watering cans.



- Delicious songbird soaps in a soap dish nest, songbird or berry tea towels and prints, set of 6 garden scented votives in a ticking stripe cloth bag, lavender soap cubes with ceramic soap dish.
- Hand painted ceramic tiles with floral themes: sweet peas, fuchsias, and iris.
- Two Seater benches.
- Turkish rugs 6' x 9' for outdoor use.
- Lushly planted hanging baskets.
- Retro sling chairs or French bistro table and chair sets.
- Glazed pots.

COMBAT GARDEN PESTS

This is the time of year to be aware of the emergence of common garden pests. Being watchful and diagnosing infestations early will ensure that your plants remain healthy. A little prevention can prevent serious plant damage.



APHIDS are tiny insects varying from pale green to dark brown in color. They cluster on stems and leaves and reproduce very quickly in warm seasons. They feed on plant sugars sucked from leaves and flower buds. Malathion and Diazinon, as well as Lady Bugs, are effective against Aphids.

THRIPS are tan to dark brown to black in color. Both young and adult Thrips feed by scraping or rasping the plant to suck out plant sap. Malathion and Diazinon are effective chemical treatments.

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NEWS

We initiated our newsletter in January 2004 and we are happy to have received so much favorable feedback. Actually, we enjoy this form of communication with our customers; we never thought that we would have so much to say.

We encourage anyone who has email but still receives this newsletter by snail mail to allow us to email the monthly newsletter link to you. The email newsletter is in vibrant COLOR, and you will receive it before the paper version is delivered by the post office.

If you are interested, send us an email at newsletter@wilshiregardenmarket.com requesting this change. You will need Acrobat Reader to view the email newsletter.

MAY TO DO LIST

- Check trees and shrubs for bagworms, borers, webworms.
- Watch for lace bugs, aphids, grasshoppers, spider mites.
- Prune Forsythia stems that have flowered and give the plant a good feeding.
- Plant lettuce, asparagus, spinach, peas, French beans.
- Pick thyme before it flowers.
- Sow and transplant annuals.
- Plant herbs

SEMINAR SERIES 2005

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!

Fri., May 6	Linda Vater	"Creating Curb Appeal"
Sat., June 4	Linda Vater	"Vertical Gardening"
Fri., July 8	Linda Vater	"Shade Gardening"
Sat., Aug. 27	Linda Vater	"How to keep Your Garden Looking Good"
Fri., Sep. 16	Linda Vater	"Container Gardening"
Sat., Oct. 15	Linda Vater	"Bulbs"

EXTERIOR DECORATING

This year give yourself a garden retreat, or refresh the one you have. 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 consultation visit followed by written suggestions to make your garden retreat more charming, cohesive, and useful. 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!

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