

## SELECTING POTS AND PLANTS

Try to imagine your home and garden without pots of beautiful flowers and foliage; for most of us, it would be a barren, depressing place. Many of us have a passion for pots, but not just any pots. Containers should be chosen with care; your descendants should want to fight over your pots! The bigger the better and the more, the merrier.

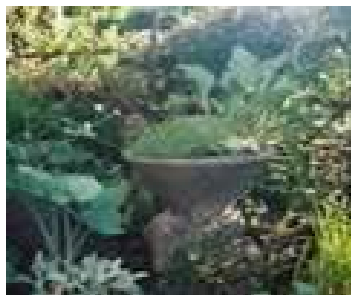
Pots, planters, or containers can do much more than decorate each side of a front door in the spring. En masse, they can provide design solutions to problem areas and enhance a garden setting.



Containers emphasize entrances to homes; or to the garden from the patio. Containers can be used to screen unsightly views or soften the edge of a patio

bordered by lawn. Pots full of plump, well cared for tropicals add a lush, intimate feel to a patio seating area.

Try filling an empty spot in the garden with a foliage plant or evergreen in a pot; it is a simple and quick solution. An attractive empty pot can also be an ideal visual focal



point and strong design element in the midst of a flower border. Place a beautiful blue or green glazed pot filled with water, floating water plants, and a few gold fish in a flower border as small sparkling water feature. A small subterranean water reservoir and space for a pump would allow the planter to become a flowing water feature, adding

movement and a very gentle trickling sound to the garden.

Strategically placing a planter on a step can signal an elevation change, giving guests an opportunity to pause and look at other portions of the garden.



Containers give gardeners more flexibility to change color schemes, as some people do each year. Containers are relatively easy to move around. Planted in monochromatic color schemes, containers can be moved to fit in nearly anywhere.

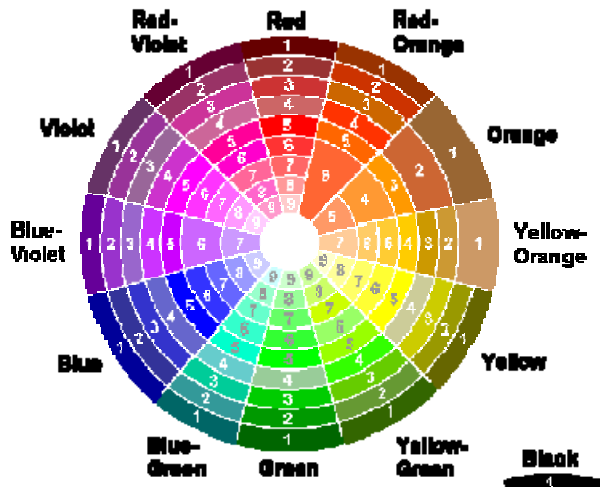
When planting containers, remember that for basic structure you will need: a "thriller", "filler", and "spiller".



The thriller is the drama or the focal point; the filler covers the stems of the thriller and gives the planting an abundant look; the spiller drapes luxuriously over the rim of the planter. This formula applies to the garden as well. When choosing plants, as well as pots, bigger is better, and the more the merrier. The

container will look instantly beautiful and mature plants will have a higher survival rate. The plants will more than fill out the planter.

The traditional color wheel is a useful guide in choosing compatible colors of flowers or foliage. The colors directly opposite each other on the color wheel, the complementaries, will provide the most contrast; midway between the primary colors, the secondary colors also provide strong color contrasts. The colors adjacent to each other are naturally harmonious.



Choose a color palette for the plantings, and study the foliage and stems for veins or markings that create color echoes of the focal plant. Use the color echoes to complement the container and other elements such as patio furniture and pillows.



Monochromatic plant compositions are particularly effective in a small or enclosed garden. From pale pink to clear red, or sky blue to lavender blue, the creations can be delightful. Natural partners are pink and lavender; burgundy will serve as the intermediary. When changing color directions, a chartreuse or burgundy plant makes the best buffer for change.

Take digital pictures of your planters to the nursery when buying plants and you will make better plant choices. Place prospective plants together while at the nursery to make sure that you like the composition.

Make this year your year for the most beautiful container gardens!

## JUST IN AT WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET!!!

We have been talking about containers to match your home style for two months. Two large shipments of new pots in both cast stone and glazed terra cotta have arrived. We have selected styles and sizes to fit into a variety of different settings: traditional, modern, Asian and French, to name a few. Within the past few years our vendor has made available large sized pots to accommodate for



the new larger homes. The Frascati planter pictured here measures 29.5 inches across, and stands 25 inches high with its decorative pedestal. Its finish is a rustic aged limestone. The gorgeous



glazed light green Gulf Planter is 21"W by 23" H with raised leaf design around the bottom of the bowl. The glazed planters are suitable for remaining outdoors in cold weather provided they have adequate drainage.



These oversized rustic urns are now available. They measure 36"H. They are being used in gardens as focal points, either planted or

empty.

This decorative cast stone chapel is actually a toad house fit for the toad prince. A unique feature and conversation piece for any garden, it would make a nice



Mother's Day gift or a darling wedding gift!



## MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 14

Mother's Day is held at a beautiful time of year, when the weather is warm but not too 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.
- Live ivy topiaries.
- Beautiful iron trellises.
- Pre de Provence soaps.
- Deliciously scented botanical candles.
- Whimsical and colorful ceramic toadstools.
- Hats and gloves in shades of pink, purple, or green.
- Carefree and colorful outdoor pillows in oil-cloth or polyester.
- Turkish rugs 5' x 8' for outdoor use.
- Lushly planted containers.
- French bistro table and chair sets.
- Glazed pots.
- Unique small tools.
- Bird statues, bird houses, bird baths.

## 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

## SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NEWS

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](mailto:newsletter@wilshiregardenmarket.com) requesting this change. You will need Acrobat Reader to view the email newsletter.

## 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., May 6    | Linda Vater | "Roses" with a visit to Linda's Garden Afterwards |
| 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

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. 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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WILSHIRE  GARDEN  
M A R K E T



***MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY14  
GREAT GIFT IDEAS INSIDE!***

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