

# WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

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## THE HOME AND GARDEN IN AUTUMN

There is an almost primitive sense of urgency to tidy and prepare our gardens and homes for a change of season in the autumn. By this time everyone grows tired of pink spring and summer blooms and is ready for the rich autumn tones of gold and burgundy. It is the time to get the outside garden and landscape chores wrapped up. It is also the ideal time to plant trees and shrubs so that roots will have time to grow, enabling the plants to be capable of surviving next summer's potentially stressful heat. Gardens must be rid of dead leaves, flowers gently deadheaded, watered, and fully mulched to remain healthy in approaching cold weather. It is much more pleasing especially in the fall, from a curb appeal aspect, to see a home landscape that is well cared for, garden borders well-defined, leaves raked.

The entry is a key focal point both for welcoming guests into your home and for curb appeal. Very



large and beautiful containers are important accents for the entry. In the fall, cast stone or glazed terra cotta containers can be planted with upright evergreens, grasses, ivies, perennials with colorful, interesting foliage such as Heuchera, groundcovers, herbs, and hardy color such as violas and pansies. They will keep their curb appeal and be easy to maintain combined with a few gourds and pumpkins.



Porches are ideal places to feature fall vignettes. Even the steps leading up to the porch make a good stage for seasonal accents. Color can be kept to one shade of the same color from barely tinted to deeply saturated, for richness and a

visually calming effect: butter, jonquil, lemon, gold, and bronze, for example. Or mix to include three to five complimentary colors.

Beautiful seasonal accents add a welcoming touch when nestled in the corner of a bench on a porch.

Accents such as these generously sized, washable outdoor pillows in light blue, brown, caramel, pumpkin, and burgundy, can compliment flowers of like colors in nearby planters and flower beds. Outdoor rugs or garden flags can also help emphasize a color scheme. With a little planning, a home can be welcoming and outdoor living areas and the garden can be appealing in any season, to be enjoyed and admired year around.



## COLORFUL PANSIES: PLANT THEM NOW!

Pansies are one of the best flowers for fall and winter landscapes in this region of the country. Planted properly and with six hours or more of sunlight, they will perform admirably.

Planting time is also critical. For best results



plant pansies when the soil temperature is between 45 and 70 degrees F. It is true that pansies can weather temperatures in the single digits and bounce back after the weather warms. They can only be

that strong and resourceful if they have had the chance to develop a strong root system before cold weather hits. Soil temperatures below 45 degrees at planting will result in inactive roots, small plants, and little flowering. If planted above 70 degrees, the plants will be leggy with yellowish leaves, and fewer flowers. Pansies planted then are also more susceptible to greater frost damage.

To get the best results from a pansy planting, big blooming varieties are the showiest. Select compact plants, not leggy ones, with deep green foliage. Before purchasing, pop some plants out of their containers. Do not buy root bound plants. Plants that are root bound or leggy have a hard time becoming established. Faded blossoms should be deadheaded to extend flowering.

Incorporate into the soil at the initial planting stage, one cup of slow release lawn fertilizer and two pounds of a bone meal and blood meal mixture spread over 50 square feet of bed. Individual pansies should be planted approximately four to six inches apart in the landscape and watered for the first five days, after that, twice a week. Two inches of mulch will help conserve water and insulate pansies to improve their performance.

Certain crawling insects eat pansies, so treat every two weeks. Pansies will bloom most of the winter and throughout the spring.

Protect pansies during cold weather by letting them wilt. Dry leaves are not damaged by cold

and recover nicely when weather warms. If the soil is frozen while dry, the roots will be unable to transport water back to the leaves. That is why beds should be insulated with two inches of mulch during the winter. If very cold weather is forecast, covering them with winter protection will shelter their leaves. Always water flower beds and well-draining containers and protect before a long cold spell.

## AUTUMN ACCENTS, NEW ARRIVALS, GREAT GIFTS

Take advantage of this time of year by placing a hand tuned wind chime in your garden. Until recently, wind chimes were produced by artisans for their visual appearance more than their tonal sound. Visual chimes create unpleasant clatter that can set off burglar alarms because they sound like breaking glass.

Several companies produce wind chimes that are tuned to play in specific harmonic tones, as a musical



instrument played in the wind. These chimes will actually drown out noise pollution with notes that are soothing, such as those used during meditation. Place a wind chime in a tree, an overhang, or wherever it

can catch the wind.

Wind chimes are among integral garden accents that add feelings of peace and harmony. Chimes are a garden accent to enjoy while in the garden and while indoors as well. The chimes can be seen swaying in the wind and the sound can usually be heard faintly. There is a range of sounds produced from the deep mellow tones of church bells to lovely, lighter, crisper echoes from the shorter tubes. We have just received a new American made line with a wide price range. Our chimes are made of weather resistant materials, enabling them to be used and enjoyed outdoors for years.





Rich beeswax embellished with slices of real fruit and spices makes the large spicy apple candles perfect home accents for fall and throughout the holiday season. Each burns for 200 hours, their delicious aroma filling your home, evoking memories of happy holidays.

Elegant bags filled with natural botanicals and lightly fragranced potpourris complementing the botanical candles are new this year. The potpourri can be used alone or, as shown here, surrounding the botanical candle to make a stunning seasonal accent. Home fragrance refresher oils are available.



Seasonal flags are available for fall and Thanksgiving in garden size or standard. Christmas flags and doormats are arriving soon. Both flags and doormats are made to be weather resistant and are washable. Available for all holidays and seasons, a set of flags to represent the four seasons is a gift that is appreciated all year.

Hanging a flag in celebration of a holiday or the season is an easy way to dress up your home.

Fall clean up is made easier with the aid of the right tool. We suggest having a pair of Joyce Chen scissors at hand for deadheading and general garden maintenance. These sharp, precise tools really make garden chores go a great deal quicker. Having a pair of Felco pruners will also help you trim or thin overgrown shrubs.



What to do with all of the clippings? Simply place them into a colorful Tub Trug! This wonderful carrier is a light weight, waterproof, and easy way to cart your clippings to their final destination.



Another tool that customers appreciate is the Dutch hand hoe. This is a hand-forged digging tool that is made for light digging, fastidious weeding, and planting. Weeder gloves will protect your hands comfortably while you beautify your garden.

## BUY A PAYNE PREMIER CARD

Payne Premier Cards are now on sale in local retail stores, including Wilshire Garden Market. Premier Cards provide savings to shoppers while supporting a valuable nonprofit organization benefiting education in Oklahoma. A card can be purchased for \$50, allowing 20% discounts at many retail stores, and if you are organized, you can recoup your \$50 and save much more on your holiday or personal gift giving. Cards can be used from November 2 through November 11. Come in, shop, and save!

## 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!

