

# WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

October 2005 Newsletter  
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## BRING FALL TO YOUR FRONT DOOR

Fall is finally here! Plants and gardeners will begin to respond to cooler temperatures. After the long, dry heat wave, it is cathartic to remove shriveled or overgrown plant materials and replace them with fresh plantings. However, many people lack the experience to be confident about what plant combinations to use for fall and winter containers or how to arrange their containers at the entryway. Straightforward guidelines simplify container planting and entryway decorating.

There should be an unobstructed path to the front door; a clearance of four feet allows two people to stand shoulder to shoulder. Planters should complement and be to scale with the home's entry. Frequently containers are too small, dwarfed by the home. When containers are too small, they do not make the best statement from the street, will not support growth of plant materials, and dry out too quickly. A matching pair of pots or urns gives balance and importance to an entry; occasionally entries are so large



that multiple pairs of large planters are needed. Some entrances can only accommodate containers on one side, ideal for a duo or trio of containers of like material or color in graduated sizes.

Proper soil is critical to the success of all container plantings. Fall plantings thrive with more dense soil richer in nutrients; mix four parts potting soil to one part commercial compost. Adding mycorrhizal fungi to potting soil improves a plant's ability to absorb water and nutrients; Healthy Start is available commercially.

Autumn plants in rich colors mixed with evergreens provide attractive containers that endure throughout the seasons. Interesting dimensional combinations are created by mixing plant materi-

als of varied height, form, leaf texture, and color. Standard mums, kale, and jewel tone pansies combine well with herbs, perennials, ground covers, grasses, young trees and shrubs to make miniature landscapes in pots

Large containers can accommodate a variety of plants, and there are endless compositions. For height in the center of the arrangement, try a one to three gallon



upright evergreen, such as a Dwarf English or Sky Pencil Boxwood, young Arbor Vitae, or Leyland Cypress. Juxtapose the height with mounding plants such as Nana Nandinas, petite Hollies, Kale, Heuchera, and small grasses, varying the leaf texture of neighboring plants. Soften the edge with a draping evergreen groundcover such as English Ivy, Asiatic Jasmine, Ajuga, Woolly Thyme, or Pacific Shore Juniper. Fill in further with Chrysanthemums, Pansies, Dianthus, or Violas in tones that blend with veins or leaves of companion plants. Crowding plants a bit will force their roots to grow down rather than spreading out, making the plants more drought resistant. Small, fine mulches such as Oregon green moss, cocoa hulls, or fine pine bark add a finishing touch and insulate plants from freezing.



As a final embellishment, tuck in (as a little surprise) one or two tiny cast stone birds, frogs, turtles, or bunnies peeking through the leaves and blooms.



For the fall enthusiast who equates the number of pumpkins with harvest abundance, just say "No" at the pumpkin patch and walk away with less than 20. The aroma of a truck load of three week old sun warmed pumpkins (P.U.!) does not say

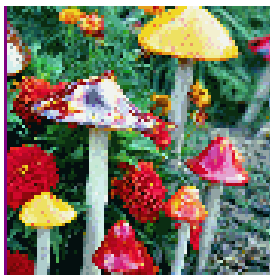
"Welcome to our home". Refreshed planters at the front door will enliven your spirits and will still be ready to welcome guests during the upcoming holidays!

## WHAT'S NEW!

In time for fall entertaining are new outdoor rugs in autumn tones. Colors range from earthen brown with pale blue accents, to eggplant, and a Pennsylvania Dutch motif in cranberry. Sizes available are 5' by 8' and 3' by 6'. Recently seen gracing a home in the Hamptons, these rugs are wonderful accent pieces that pull together a seating area, and they are very desirable gifts!



Colorful ceramic toadstools have arrived in sizes from tiny micros to mid-sized just right to tuck into a fall planter or directly into the garden. A bouquet of garden toadstools will be happily received for birthday, thank you, house warming, hostess, and holiday gifts.



Beeswax botanical blend candles and votives are available in delicious scents. Spicy apple is a perennial best seller with a cheerful combination of apple slices, cinnamon sticks, and bay leaves imbedded in the outer layer. Pillar candles are five inches in



diameter and 6.5 inches tall with a burn time of 200 hours. Other delectable scents include bay leaf and clove, cherries and chestnuts, English garden, warm cocoa spice, and apple pear. Coming soon will be the 300 hour edition extra large holiday apple berry centerpiece candle with two wicks.



Easy to love holiday gifts include a white enamel bucket filled with Christmas morning raspberry jam, a wooden ladle, and a decorative packet of five servings of peppermint cocoa. Peppermint stick soaps are among favorite stocking stuffers.



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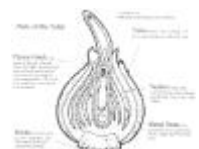
## BULBS, BULBS, BULBS !



Tulips, daffodils, crocus, and fragrant hyacinth bulbs will arrive in early November direct from Holland in time for proper planting courtesy of Klee Black, bulb master extraordinaire. Klee will be at the store with a fresh shipment of bulbs on Saturday afternoon, November 5 from 1:30-3:30. He will be happy to answer

any questions regarding bulbs, which varieties bloom when, and how to create layered bulb gardens in pots, or contract with Klee to plant your bulbs.

Generally, bulbs can be planted once the soil has cooled to less than 60 degrees F. Plant all bulbs in well drained soil, about three times deeper than the diameter of the bulbs. Some customers have confessed to planting bulbs upside down. There is not only a top and bottom to a bulb, but a front and back. The small pointed tip is the top, and the flatter side of the bulb is the back, where the first leaf will rise and arch outward. This is important if bulbs will be planted



facing outward in pots. For an abundant, natural display of bulbs in the garden, dig an almond shaped hole about one foot in diameter. Mix bulb food into the soil before putting the bulbs in place. Plant ten to twenty bulbs in the space, making sure that they do not touch. Get bulb fever!

## THE TOOLS FOR FALL CLEANUP

Fall garden tasks primarily consist of cleaning up the shaggy results of hot, dry weather, pruning or dividing overgrown plants, and planting new perennials and plants for fall color. Experts advise that using



the proper tool for the job at hand results in healthier plants, saving time, money, and frustration. The Favorite Tools continue to be Felco pruners that can fit your hand and ability to grip, as well as the Joyce Chen red garden scissors and yellow pruning scissors for smaller precision cutting jobs. Anyone who purchases the Hand Rake returns to sing its praises for cleaning the garden without destroying tender plant materials. The hand forged steel disc weeder and perennial spade are useful and make light work out

of tough jobs. Weeder gloves are comfortable and sensitive to the touch for gardening anytime.

## OCTOBER TO DO LIST

- Dig up and divide crowded perennials. Water thoroughly after replanting.
- It is the perfect time to plant trees, shrubs and perennials; they can spend the winter establishing a strong root system before putting all their energy into spring leafing and flowering.
- Pick tomatoes before cool weather sets in and let them finish ripening indoors.
- Place a layer of winter mulch around roses and perennials to protect against frost and as a spring weed preventative.
- Reduce watering well established shrubs so they will begin to harden off for winter.

## 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 and bring a friend!

Sat., Oct. 15	Linda Vater	Bulbs
Fri., Nov. 11	Linda Vater	Holiday Decorating From the Garden
Sat., Dec. 3	Linda Vater	Christmas Open House
Fri., Feb. 10	Linda Vater	Creating Garden Vignettes
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!
Fri., Sept. 15	Linda Vater	Best Foundation Plants
Fri., Oct. 13	Linda Vater	Bulb Container Gardening

Watch Linda Vater's garden segments on the KFOR- TV4 4:30-4:45 p.m. News with Linda Cavanaugh every Tuesday!

## 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 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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M A R K E T



2006 Calendars Now Available:  
Linnea  
Four Seasons  
Susan Wallace Barnes

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