

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

October, 2007 Newsletter
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 CELEBRATING TEN YEARS

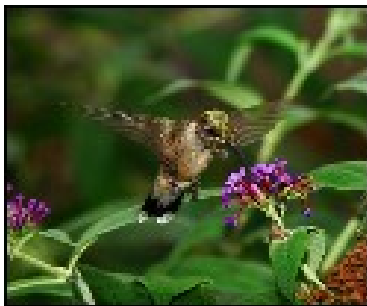
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 Established 1997

OKLAHOMA'S GEMS--HUNGRY HUMMINGBIRDS



She flies from flower to flower, collecting her weight in nectar each day to sustain her on her migratory journey south. Finally, after 12 years of gardening, I have

a repeat visitor, the female ruby throated hummingbird. She whirs past in a blur, her wings beating so rapidly that she sounds like a miniature bomber. She drinks out of each tiny Lantana bloom, a study in persistence. She perches on the telephone line, waiting for me to leave the garden. If I surprise her, she sits in the tree and chatters angrily at me. I have seen this amazing little creature hover in the sprinkler water and then approach my outdoor art and try to drink from the painted poppies. After this encounter, I decided that since I sell hummingbird feeders and I have a guest hummingbird, I should help my little gem by providing her an abundant supply of nectar. Unsure if



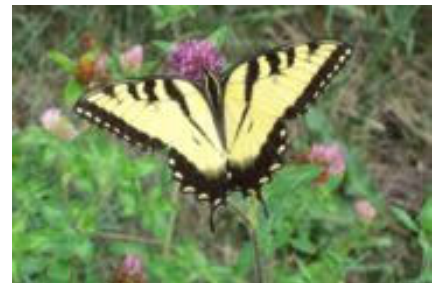
she would be able to find the feeder or if she would like my nectar mix, I hesitantly placed a lollipop type hummingbird feeder in a pot near the Lantana blooms. Following the advice of the hummingbird feeder wholesale ven-

dor, I made the commitment to provide fresh nectar every day. To do this, I made a large batch and stored it in my water bottle in the refrigerator. However, my husband was unaware of my nectar concoction and drank my hummingbird nectar, promptly getting a headache. It is a good idea to use an official hummingbird nectar carafe or label your concoctions. After filling the



feeder for several days, I hadn't seen any takers, but finally, while indoors, I noticed something zipping around outdoors. There was my little gem drinking out of my hummingbird feeder! I let out an exclamation of excitement; I am sure that the hummingbird heard me because she quickly streaked away.

Butterflies of several varieties are also delightful to watch floating around in the back garden. Not quite as spectacular as the iridescent hummingbirds, but still wonderful, this season's visitors have been the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, the Black Swallowtail, many Viceroy's, Monarchs, and Painted Ladies. Butterflies also rely on nectar and migrate incredible distances, they just don't display the urgency of the hummingbird. It is peaceful to watch them flutter and float from one bloom to the next.



WILD BIRDS IN FALL GARDENS

Fall marks the start of serious activity in the world of birds: migrating and heavy feeding to boost body weight. Wild birds require shelter, a food supply, and an adequate supply of clean water to remain fit for traveling or to survive in cold weather.

One of the best ways to get birds into your garden and ensure that they will return is to make it environmentally friendly. Because they need to be ready in order to survive, birds are busy scouting sources of winter food and water now. When they need shelter, food, and water, they will show up in your garden if you have something to offer. Sometimes water is more difficult to come by in fall and winter than is food. A birdbath may be the answer.



What qualities are best? The center should have a depth of no more than three inches. It should be even shallower at the outer edges so that birds can ease in. If you already have a birdbath that is too deep, place a few rocks or a small, flat garden ornament to enable the

birds to climb to safety. The bottom surface should be rough so that the birds can maintain their footing. They will avoid a birdbath with a glazed, slippery bottom, defeating your purpose.

Locate the birdbath in a shady place in the garden to help keep the water cooler. Place it near a tree so the birds can retreat quickly if they become alarmed. The ideal place is under some branches that hang down within a few feet of the birdbath. Wet



birds can flutter there for safety. A birdbath should have a pedestal of some kind because it is easier to see from inside your home, it is easier to clean, and it is a little safer from predators. A birdbath should be close to the hose for quick cleaning and filling.

A WORD ABOUT FALL PRUNING

The word is "Don't ". Fall is not a good time of year to prune. Heading back branches in the fall stimulates growth in the buds that formed during the summer. Because the new growth won't have time to harden off before cold weather arrives, it can freeze or be damaged seriously. Limit pruning chores to the removing of dead branches or to doing only very minor thinning.

FLAGS ADD FALL AMBIANCE



Hanging an art flag on the front of your home is an easy way to add fall color without even getting your hands dirty. The material is soft and flowing, durable, and fade resistant, made to last more than one year's use. It is like having a piece of art softly flowing in the breeze. We

have a replenished supply of fall flags to help refresh your home to reflect the season. Brown and gold falling leaves are available with coordinating fall doormats, or add the brilliant jewel tones of pumpkins and gourds.

Repeat the beautiful colors found in these flags with seasonal flowers, a hay bale and a small stockpile of pumpkins and gourds for a pulled together look.

Small autumn garden flags are also available to give as gifts or easily install in the garden.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE STORE



Spicy apple candles in the traditional size and the large size along with the delicious new coordinating potpourri contain apple slices, rose hips, bay leaves, and cinnamon sticks. The attractive bowl is fiberglass in a burl wood finish.



For wedding showers in the fall, or any time, "The Kiss" outdoor polyester pillow is a perfect accent for a front porch bench or as a housewarming gift for the bride and groom.

The "Mr. & Mrs." garden flag is another great wedding shower accent or housewarming gift. In pastel tones with a pale green background and cream champagne flutes, it will coordinate perfectly with "The Kiss" pillow!



A faux wood bowl hosts three precious birds. Use empty or fill with water and floating flowers.

Many more unique items are in stock and are arriving weekly.

OCTOBER 2007 TO DO LIST

- Enrich soil with compost.
- Use garden debris to start small compost pile in unseen part of the garden.
- Plant trees and shrubs.
- Collect dried seeds from flowers or veggies.
- Make sure all vacationing houseplants are checked for pests before bringing them back indoors.
- Plant cool season annuals.
- Cover water gardens with screen or netting to keep out falling leaves.

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!

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Furnishing Fine Gardens

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