

# WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

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2821 Wilshire Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
(405) 879-1121 [www.wilshiregardenmarket.com](http://www.wilshiregardenmarket.com)  
Established 1997

## FALL BEAUTY IN YOUR OUTDOOR RETREAT

Okay, generally speaking, that was a bad August. It redeemed itself at the eleventh hour with record rainfalls, but in most minds it will not be remembered for record rains. Virtually everyone is delighted that it is over, ready to refresh the garden and patio to reflect the onset of a cooler, prettier



season, autumn. There are weeks of pleasant weather ahead that actually include many opportunities for good times in our garden retreats.

For a little therapy, begin refreshing your garden; remove plants that didn't survive or that look as though they have been through WWII, making sure to keep the *global warming tolerant plants* (known from this point forward as *GWTP*). Gently trim back leggy annuals and perennials; smaller, cleaner, more compact plants will look better and will leaf out more densely and perhaps even bloom again. Remove all dead leaves that have fallen due to heat stress. While you are trimming and cleaning, redistribute existing mulch that may have settled unevenly. This will give the garden a clean look reminiscent of bygone spring days

After the garden has been restored, turn your attention to the seating and entertaining area. The light is changing from bright and glaring to angled and flat; many colors look especially beautiful in that flat light.

People think traditionally of brown, rust, gold, or orange as autumn colors.



Actually pink, burgundy, fuchsia, red, light and dark green, turquoise, purple, and blue are all found naturally in autumn flowers, leaves, and decorative gourds.

Changing or adding pillows, cushions, and area rugs is the simplest, most cost effective way to update the garden retreat to reflect the season. Weather resistant materials in numerous colors and patterns easily allow outdoor cushions, pillows, and rugs to last for years.



The polyester fabric that covers the pillows can be made into slip covers for bench cushions, and even curtains to block the sun on patio areas. If they become rain soaked, they dry quickly; the covers zip off for washing if necessary, and they dry easily.

Use your imagination and begin beautifying your garden retreat this fall. You will be glad you did.

## ENERGY WISE LANDSCAPING

Home cooling bills have been astronomical during the recent heat wave. The same could be said of heating bills during a record breaking winter. Good horticultural planning can save as much as 25% on cooling and heating bills. Start now for a more energy efficient home.

Planting a line of trees parallel to a wall of the house or planting two parallel lines of trees can help create a kind of wind tunnel, making a cool breeze in the yard or over the house.

Almost everyone has a lawn. Just like trees, grass transpires water to cool itself, which in turn cools the area around it. A lawn under shade trees is definitely cooler than pavement in the sun.

An open shade structure such as a pergola or arbor allows shade and breeze in the garden. Having some source of water or a water feature in the garden will also cool the area.



Although no one has been too cold in quite a while, it could happen again. Placing evergreen trees around the home can help block cold winter winds, keeping the home warmer.

Whether insulating from heat or cold, planting more trees and shrubs is an idea worth considering.

## MIGRATION AND SEASONAL CHANGE



With the arrival of September, we know that cooler temperatures are soon to follow. With the cooler temperatures come some familiar returning sights of Monarch butterflies, hummingbirds, flocks of wild birds, and the elusive yellow school bus.

This is the time of year that the Monarch butterflies begin their monumental journey to breed and winter

over from California to Mexico. Around the third week, flocks can be seen floating around trees at dusk looking for a branch on which to rest overnight. It is an amazing sight.

Hummingbirds begin their winter migration from Oklahoma mainly in September; however they can begin as early as late July through early October depending on their final destination.



Their departure corresponds with the end of the blooming season of food plants; they drink nectar to fuel their fly catching abilities being that they are actually carnivores. The Ruby Throated hummingbird winters in Central America. When traveling over the Gulf of Mexico, it has been reported that they fly just above the wave tops, not in the higher altitudes as do other migratory birds. This is to reduce the wind resistance and energy spent; one observer reported seeing a flier get within the curve of a wave, using it as a windbreak.



Wild birds, before they embark on their migratory flight, store reserves of fat to be able to travel the long distances. The warbler will double its weight,

however if a Canadian goose were to do this, it would not be able to take flight. Some birds are able to fly for 90 hours! Unlike humans, birds wait until the winds are blowing the correct direction, and the weather conditions are right. When looking at a migratory path, one may think that the birds do not choose to take a direct path to their winter resting ground; even though the distance traveled is greater, the route is much easier when flying a trade wind.

Supposedly the temperature can be determined by listening to crickets chirp! If you count the amount of times that a cricket chirps in 15 seconds, and then add 39, you will come up with the temperature. The trick is to make sure and count the chirps of just one cricket, and to have a stop watch.



## RE-POT PLANTERS IN THE FALL



This is the perfect time to clean out planters and change seasonal colors. Colorful fall plantings will complement the autumn leaves and garden retreat accents.

Adding one quality pot to an entry or patio area will quickly define the style of a home. When planting in an existing pot, best results will be obtained by using fresh potting soil and elevating the pot on pot feet for drainage.

While shopping the nurseries for plant material, keep in mind that fall plantings will not have time to grow as large as the spring ones, so select the largest and most healthy available.

In addition to the usual pansies, violas, and kale, some unusual and colorful selections for fall containers are Plum



Puttling Coral Bells, Stonecrop Sedum, small evergreen trees, boxwood, dwarf mondo grass, Pacific Shore Juniper, and variegated Euonymus.

## SEPTEMBER TO DO LIST

- Trim back (or discard) annuals.
- Prune off dead or dried branches from plants. Fertilize lightly with high nitrogen fertilizer (such as ammonium sulfate 21-0-0) to encourage new growth. After fertilizing, water thoroughly.
- Deadhead and trim leggy perennials; check for dried seed pods, harvest, label and store in a dry cool place for next year.
- Divide iris clumps into rhizomes with a fan of three leaves. Cut back the fan shaped leaves to six inches. Water thoroughly.
- Fertilize warm season grass (Bermuda), trees and shrubs.
- Prune back rose canes approximately 12 inches to stimulate new growth and fall flowering. Fertilize and water.

- Plant flowering bulbs in areas of morning to mid-day sun. Plant perennials, trees and shrubs in autumn to allow them to establish a strong root system over the winter.
- Start preparing the fall garden by tilling in compost, manure, or peat moss into the soil with a starter fertilizer such as bone meal.

## 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!

Sat., Sept. 16 Linda Vater "Best Foundation Plants"

Fri., Oct. 13 Linda Vater "Bulb Container Gardening"

Get interesting garden tips and information by watching Linda Vater's garden segments on the 4:45 KFOR-TV4 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



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FURNISHED GARDEN!***

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