

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

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Established 1997

Get the Scoop on the Latest in National Garden Trends for 2006

Be on the cutting edge of what is hot for the garden in 2006. Research indicates that outdoor living is in. It is "in" to be "out": cooking out, entertaining out, reading out, relaxing out, and even working in the great outdoors. It is about much more than gardening and the Latin name of plants. Simple elegance is in; showplace gardens are out; gardening in small spaces is in; colossal landscapes are out; potscaping is in; 1-D containers are out; boom and bloom is in; just flowers are out; fountains are in; ponds are out; home grown food is in; fast food is out, out, out!



Container gardening is extremely hot. The new trend is "potscaping", or clustering groups of containers, each usually containing one type of plant, such as all purple pansies or all lettuces.

Anything goes in pots, even vegetables, but dwarf evergreens are really hot, both in planters and in the garden.

Even for those with only a patio or balcony, the garden look can be achieved by assembling a coordinated group of quality pots. The group of pots should have elements in common: shape, material, or hue.

The latest trend is to add comfortable furniture, kitchen facilities, outdoor sound systems, plasma screen televisions, and entertainment "tents" to the back yard. Less is more still in terms of style and simple elegance, enlivened by a healthy dose of luxury.

Everyday homeowners are becoming exterior decorators, using high-end fabrics that they pair with lush plantings in beautiful containers, their exterior

lighting looks like their indoor chandeliers and lamps. Cozy couches double as outdoor beds. Half of homeowners say that they "decorate" with planters; they are also adding garden art and fountains to give their gardens their own personalities. Buying two or three great pieces and working the garden around them is preferred rather than amassing lots of "stuff".

Fountains are far outpacing ponds this year. The soothing sound of water is being added to outdoor living rooms via fountains versus ponds. The trend is to keep sound, motion, and water in the garden without the maintenance.



Permanent art for outdoors solves the need for



color and lends the impression of plant materials or water to a garden space. Made from aluminum, they can remain outdoors year round. Styles range from contemporary and abstract to floral and landscape

scenes.

These trends have been attributed to the changing lifestyle of the baby boomers, and the emerging lifestyle of the Gen X'ers. It all points to more enjoyment in the garden with less toil. At last, garden trends are reflecting an individual's ability to make decisions and do not involve keeping up with anyone else. Bravo!

WHAT'S NEW for SPRING 2006

While the perennials have been sleeping, we have been busy ordering our spring stock. Here is a preview of exciting garden accents that have arrived or will be arriving as soon as next week!

Campania pots, fountains, statuary

In addition to the beautiful, traditional cast stone planters, we have ordered pots and 38" window boxes made of light weight and durable fiberglass. Made for year round outdoor use, the finish is realistic; no one can tell it is not aged limestone.



Glazed planters are also definitely the trend; the styles range from sleek contemporary to traditional, and colors range from slate gray, blue, green, yellow, and even in lipstick pink and purple!



House plants both live and silk



The line between indoor and outdoor living areas is all but obliterated, couches have gone outdoors, and so plants are going back indoors. We have just received a shipment of fresh **angel vine, boxwood, and ivy topiary house plants** to add a soft and natural ambiance to your home or to

give as a gift. Beautiful **silk wreaths** will be arriving soon, fully adorned with flora and fauna.

Colorful Ceramic Garden Toadstools

We have toadstools from micro to XL, in yellow, pink, peach, red, green, blue, and purple. Oil lamps, too. Customers buy them in threes to create little garden vignettes; one is great to accent a container.



Outdoor Rugs — These colorful rugs add a unique richness to outdoor seating areas. Made of recycled plastic, they remain outdoors in all weather other than icy conditions. They are durable, fade proof, washable, and have Velcro tabs for windy locations. The 3' x 6' rugs are enlarged to 4' x 6'; large sizes are 5' x 8' and 6' x 9'.

Basic indulgences with a garden theme

Basic indulgences, delicious **heart soaps** are here in three sizes and scents: **rose, camellia, and jonquil** as well as 150 gr. bars in spring colors and scents such as green tea, milk, and lychee nut. Body lotion, hand cream, and moisture gloves keep gardeners soft and silky.



Gorgeous **spring botanical candles** have just arrived! **Jasmine and Tea Leaves with lime slices** have

a wonderful spring bouquet, along with trendy square lavender candles full of lavender seeds and rose petals, and **pink sweet pea hearts** for Valentines! Burn times are (heart) 85, up to 200 hours.

Essentials like gloves, watering cans, tools, and a rainbow of gardening hats

Weeder gloves in every color and size are in stock. Red enamel and galvanized watering cans are in. Watch for the new George Washington replica copper watering can, a handsome and useful garden accent. Coming soon, the half gallon lattice design polished stainless steel Haws cans, as well as the green wood handle watering cans. Gardening hats are coming in pinks to purple to orange.



This is going to be a beautiful spring!

WHAT'S A GARDENER TO DO?

It is winter, but it is warm and very dry, so what's a gardener to do? This is a golden opportunity to take care of mid-winter garden maintenance items in relative comfort. When spring really arrives and there are too many things to do, you will be very glad you took action now. When gardeners cannot wait to get started in their spring gardens, pruning is a worthwhile task to undertake. Pruning occupies gardeners' hands, benefits the trees and vines that need annual trimming, and tidies the garden so that it will be at its glorious best when it awakens.

Intelligent gardeners research proper methods of pruning the various trees and shrubs. Trees that can be pruned in early spring, while dormant, are Bradford Pear, Butterfly Bush, Crape Myrtle (**ask us for the Crape Murder article**), Dogwood, Plum, Glossy Abelia, Golden Rain Tree, Honeysuckle, Hydrangea Peegee, Redbud, Spirea (EXCEPT Bridal Wreath), and Wisteria (no one seems to know how).

Another garden "To Do" is to test soil and make amendments to improve it if needed. Successful gardening stems from healthy, friable, fertile soil and plenty of water. Have the soil tested at the OSU County Extension Center. If the soil has a high PH, it can be lowered to a desirable level by adding sulphur *several months before planting season, so time is of the essence!*

Especially important this year since there has been so little rainfall, some soil needs to be amended with the addition of compost or organic mulch. This will make hard soil friable and conserve precious moisture during the summer and improve the soil when tilled in during next autumn.

WINTER 2006 TO DO LIST

- Stay in and read novels...or...
- Plan a new garden or improvements.
- Plant trees if desirable.
- Growing your vegetables is now a status symbol; look through vegetable seed catalogs for the most "in" dwarf vegetables.
- Look through seed catalogs to choose plant material for color and performance.
- Water plants to protect against frost death.
- On a sunny day check hand tools, clean, sharpen if necessary, protect with oil.

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!

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!
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

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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Valentine Gifts Galore!

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