

WILSHIRE GARDEN M A R K E T

July 2004 Newsletter

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DECORATING YOUR GARDEN; ITS NOT JUST STATUARY ANY MORE

It has been said that beautiful surroundings make for a better life. With the stresses of a world often seemingly out of control, there is widespread interest in relaxing with family and friends, communing with nature, and outdoor living. Coincidentally, the modern gardening philosophy is to use outdoor spaces to the utmost benefit. Gone are the days of aluminum folding chairs and rusty grills; homeowners want more than a grassy back yard and a concrete patio. They are learning that they can add peace to their lives by adding beauty and the feel of relaxation and comfort to their gardens, as well as by spending more time there.

Beyond landscaping, exterior decorating is the creation and accessorizing of an outdoor living room, a valuable addition since it increases usable space. This growing trend often incorporates outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, or open air kitchens. Outdoor rugs, chandeliers, furniture, and accessories now nearly meet the quality of indoor furnishings, with the added ambiance of being outdoors with nature. The more an outdoor room can be made to look and feel like an indoor room, the better; casual elegance is the most sought after style. Experienced consultants can serve as a fresh pair of eyes, visualizing possibilities, seeing things that most people miss. They help the homeowner to define the way that the area will be used, the traffic pattern of the space, the selection or placement of furniture groupings, planters, and accessories in order to create a beautiful, usable, harmonious area.

For a less structured environment, there is the very personal space in the garden, a "garden retreat", a quiet place to relax and refresh the spirit, where time slows down to the pace of summertime in childhood. Often an outdoor space is neglected or unused because of the simple lack of know-how or because of its out of the way location, an actual benefit when it comes to garden retreats. Again, turning that wasted space into a beautiful, usable garden retreat can be accom-

plished with some thought and guidance. Perhaps it should be a secret garden, just out of sight around a thicket of greenery or through an arbor; it could also provide a beautiful vista as seen from indoors, a destination that beckons. The area can be determined, two planters marking the entrance, with vine covered trellises or plants as walls, a floor of grass, ground cover, or even gravel, and simple seating for comfort.

To complete the ambiance, add natural elements such as water (to attract birds), bamboo (symbol of rejuvenation), wind chimes or a flag (movement), a sundial (to measure time), and a circular item (cycle of life).



Keep in mind:

- Strong design – Define the space, think of the entrance as a picture frame.
- Architectural framework or "bones" - these are hard or permanent structures in the garden.
- Define the usage (who and what) – consider children and pets and the frequency of entertaining.
- Relate the style to the style of home – Echo some aspect of the home's structure, soften the lines with plants if necessary.
- Create a vista and a destination - A focal point invites you into the garden.

- Simplicity – Keep an elegant scene from becoming unfocused.
- Beat the heat - The sound of splashing water sounds cooling, plant cool colors, install a mist system, and /or plant shade trees.
- Scale, unity, repetition, rhythm - Balance size of home to garden retreat, pathways, fence, containers. Attain visual weight from side to side, top to bottom.

After considering the above guidelines, express your own style for a seamless blending of home and garden. Enjoy many days of leisurely pursuits this summer and for years to come in your new garden retreat!

JULY TO DO LIST

- Lawns – Summer lawns require one inch of water per week for Bermuda grass, and two inches for Fescue. To develop a strong root system, you must water once a week deeply and slowly.
- Perennials and annuals – Prune expired blooms to promote new blooms. Trim back leggy growth to encourage plant to fill out and increase number of blooms in coming weeks.
- Trees and shrubs – For yellowed Foster’s Holly leaves, have soil and water pH tested. If the pH is too high, leaves of Foster’s Holly will turn yellow. An application of recommended amounts of sulfur can remedy this.

WHAT’S NEW

What’s new is what’s retro: sling chairs. Reminiscent of grandmother’s era, these chairs have a beach resort design. A hammock in chair form, they are exceptionally comfortable. Made from polyester canvas, they are virtually fade proof and their fabric stands up to the elements. They are perfect for impromptu additional seating or for relaxing on the patio, at the lake, at a picnic, or even in a child’s room, and they fold for storage. In 15 patterns ranging from bright multi colored stripes to an English Burberry plaid, they come with coordinating neck pillows. The 54” Fabric can be ordered as well.



Also New -- charming little lamps for your garden room, bookcases, or powder room.



Just In - a new pile of oilcloth pillows in candy colors! A new shipment of polyester canvas pillows expected immediately!



LINDA VATER SEMINAR SERIES 2004

The seminars begin at 10:30 and last for an hour, depending on the number of questions. The fee is \$10 per person and seating is somewhat limited, so call now to reserve your spot. Please join us!

The 2004 series is as follows:

July 16	Flower Arranging
Aug. 27	Discover Your Home’s Style
Sept. 25	Container Gardening

\$500 MAKEOVER FOR SMALL PATIOS

In their quest to identify their personal style and still be in style, homeowners and garden enthusiasts can be perplexed about decorating their outdoor spaces. They want quick style and they want it to fit their budgets.

It's one thing for do-it-yourselfers to watch decorators do a garden makeover on HGTV, but when it comes down to really doing it yourself, they find it is not as easy as it looks. There is something to be said for asking professionals for help.

Helping to recognize the homeowners' personal style, reorganize existing furniture pieces, and introduce harmonious new accessories into workable vignettes is Wilshire Garden Market's specialty. An area's importance or usability does not necessarily depend upon its size; even a tiny area can be a focal point, especially when viewed from indoors.

For less than \$500, a small, overgrown, unused, ugly duckling patio can be changed into a favorite destination. By selectively pruning overgrown plants and installing an English window hayrack planted with brightly colored flowers, a clean environment is provided and color is added at eye

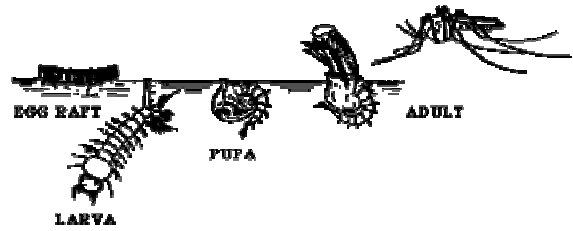


level. The addition of an outdoor area rug adds richness and welcoming softness to the concrete floor. Repositioning and planting existing pots to overflowing with flowers and adding a few garden accessories completes the look and feel that is desired. Now that *is* fun!

DON'T GET BIT!

Mosquitoes are real pests this time of year; learn a little bit about their life cycle for protection from their itchy bites.

There are four stages in the life cycle of the mosquito: egg, larva, pupa, and adult.



Eggs can hatch from the egg raft within 48 hours. They progress to the larva stage which stays in water, yet breathe air. The pupa stage, lasting usually 2 days, is a similar process to that of butterflies (caterpillar, cocoon, to adult butterfly). Once hatched, the adult mosquito will rest on the surface of the water until its wings are dry; the blood feeding begins several days later. The entire process is determined by temperature; warmer weather speeds up the process from 14 days to 10 days.

For larval control homeowners can reduce their breeding ground by disposing of containers that collect and hold water, empty standing water in pot saucers, remove debris from gutters, treat birdbaths and fountains with a larvicide (mosquito dunks or mosquito bits). Add mosquito fish that will eat the mosquito larvae in ponds.

Cut down the number of adult mosquitoes by introducing natural predators such as birds, bats, dragonflies, frogs, and toads. Adult mosquitoes rest on weeds and vegetation, so having the lawn mowed regularly will reduce their habitat.

Only the female mosquitoes bite, more often at dawn and at dusk. To rid the garden of the biting mosquitoes for hours, fog with a brand name canned spray fogger. Citronella oil is effective burned in outdoor torches and candles; it is most effective on non-windy days. Apply a repellent that includes DEET, a chemical that will repel up to 300 minutes. Apply to skin and clothes, avoiding eyes, nostrils, lips and wounds; do not apply to children's hands as they might put their hands in their mouths. Wash treated skin after coming indoors.

Play it smart with mosquitoes and take advantage of the many unseasonably pleasant days and evenings of outdoor living that remain this summer!

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Patio Makeovers!

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