

# WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

April, 2010 Newsletter  
Vol. 6, No. 3  
CELEBRATING 13 YEARS

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

## GARDENERS' RITES OF SPRING

Every year at this time, but especially this year with record snowfall, gardeners are poised, as if spring loaded, to leap into their gardens. Gardeners are always hopeful that this will be the year when the garden will be the best ever or that an exterior decorating breakthrough will be achieved. That is what gardening is all about—the opportunity to begin again. We embrace this passion year after year, plant after plant, pot after pot, not for praise and recognition, but for personal satisfaction and enjoyment.

This is the early spring frenzy, when we evaluate



what didn't work and try to expand what did work. Gardeners need to allow time to discover new plants and treasured accessories that will transform

their gardens a little closer to paradise. In this fast paced world, gardening and container gardening are valuable activities that help us slow down and focus, similar to meditating, providing us solitary time to be peaceful, enjoying nature.

Containers have become significant elements in gardening and exterior decorating. Selecting them and planting them can be daunting. Containers are a large part of what we at Wilshire Garden Market do; we use only those with fine design, durability, and overall quality; we know their value in the garden and as cherished possessions much like fine art or pieces of jewelry.

Cast stone containers can blend with nearly every



home's architecture and exterior color palette. When deciding what blooming plants will fill your containers, pull hues from your home's exterior. Amazing results can occur by pairing a gorgeous container with well chosen plant material. The plants should

amplify the beauty of the container, or, the container should allow the plants to be more noticeable.

Create a beautiful relationship between the plants and the container using monochromatic or coordinated multi-color schemes. Remember thriller, filler, spiller, roundy, spikey, and frilly. Imagine what can happen this year, the possibilities are limitless!



## CAMPANIA IS QUALITY

Customers frequently ask if our containers can remain outside all year. They are unsure because they are accustomed to encountering the shoddy craftsmanship that abounds; terra cotta pots that dangerously crack or shatter in winter, and statues that literally deteriorate into the ground; you get what you pay for; low price equals low quality.

When we first opened the store 13 years ago we only purchased cast stone containers. Due to the growing popularity of container gardening in the past five to seven years, and the availability of durable, colorful, and lighter weight glazed terra cotta, we now sell more glazed terra cotta. We have been buying the bulk of our containers for over a decade from Campania International because of their quality, beauty, and range of style.



At their factory in Pennsylvania, Campania researched the ideal cast stone mixture to achieve a product that is both durable and aesthetic. It has the tension strength to

withstand the elements and be shipped half way across the United States. The secret formula is digitally mixed for consistency, hand poured into the molds to assure minimal air pockets, then the mold is gently shaken to settle the mix and expel any additional air.

We have observed other operations where the concrete was hand mixed outside in small batches, giving irregularity to the pieces.



*(The picture on the left is of a poor quality container from a big box store that rhymes with Dome Hepot.)*

In lesser quality pieces, rocks will show through on the sides, there will be rough edges and seams, and worn down definition. A mold can only withstand so many pourings before it breaks down and loses definition. We have had Campania cast stone containers and statuary at our own homes for more than ten years, through ice storms and 110 degree temperatures, and they have weathered beautifully.



Our glazed terra cotta pots, imported from Asia by Campania, are made by a centuries old method of hand throwing and coiling. High firing in hillside dragon kilns makes the containers highly weather resistant.

We were told to lick the bottom of a glazed terra cotta pot to test its quality; we tried a couple and it works! If your tongue does not stick, then the pot is waterproof and good for both hot and cold weather. If your tongue sticks, then the pot is not waterproof, it is going to leach water in the hot months and hold water in the cold months, possibly cracking when it freezes. Glazed terra cotta is a great way to add color to your garden setting, pool or entry year round, and handled properly it will last a lifetime, long enough to become an heirloom. We say "Only buy pots that your children will fight over!"

When we buy new stock, we choose what we like, styles that are new and exciting, and containers that will accommodate our extreme Oklahoma climate. We buy containers that will help our customers be successful gardeners; we do not buy many small containers or cast iron (plant ovens)



When someone comes in looking for containers, we ask questions before showing them any pots. We ask where the containers will be placed. Is there a

particular type of plant material that is going to be used? What style: an urn, contemporary, ornate or traditional? What material is preferred, cast stone or glazed terra cotta? And finally, what color? Only



then do we start to look at containers, getting out the tape measure and catalog to ensure the customer gets the right containers for their home. It is wonderful to hear our customers tell us that we have the best pots and our pots are their favorite part of their

yard! Quality containers will enhance your home and give you a welcoming feel.

Campania International and Wilshire Garden Market, beautifying the world one garden at a time!

## FIGHTING CRAPE MURDER

At this time of year people and fly-by-night so-called arborists arm themselves with pruners and go on the hunt for defenseless trees to butcher. Beware of those who want to “top” trees and/or perform Crape Murder on your Crape Myrtles. You have seen them in front of 50 Penn Place and elsewhere, looking as though they have severely arthritic knuckles. No one seems to know who started this, but they were in error.



It is assumed that this incorrect pruning is done to shorten the tree so the blooms will be at eye level. Crape Myrtles are available in numerous heights, one or two of which do bloom at our eye level, so

when purchasing the plants, reading their tags is important. Buy the right plant for the right place.

A Crape Myrtle does not need to be pruned to bloom; it will bloom anyway, and it should bloom all over, not just on the outer ends of the branches. When branches are amputated as illustrated, a clump of many unnatural looking shoots grow from that stub; they will be weak and break easily. Repeated incorrect pruning will cause the trunks to become unnaturally thick as well. The trunks of Crape Myrtles should be their most beautiful asset year-round. The only reasons to prune a Crape Myrtle are to remove dead wood, suckers, crossing branches, and the tiny toothpick thin branches that sometimes clutter the trunks. Crape Myrtles look best when they have 3 or 5 trunks, according to personal preference.

## HUMMINGBIRDS ARE COMING

We love the tiny, speedy hummingbird. Perhaps due to those very qualities, they are a mystery that we can't quite get our hands or eyes on long enough to satisfy our curiosity. However, we will have another chance to spot them in our gardens this year if we provide the proper attractions: their favorite plants as well as feeders such as these gorgeous new styles. A hummer garden helps attract them to your nearby feeder. Hummers have no sense of smell; they are attracted to highly visible plants that produce abundant amounts of nectar and they are attracted to feeders.



Hummingbirds eat protein as well as nectar; 10% of their diet is from arthropods: flies, wasps, spiders, beetles, and ants. Some will grab them right out of the air; others pick them out of flowers and underneath leaves. At night they reduce their heart rate to conserve energy, so much so that they appear to be dead, however when sunlight comes, the air warms and food is available again, they come to life and buzz off on their search for food and nectar.

If you use a feeder, sooner or later a hummingbird will come to investigate, and then you will be on his trapline. The first wave of the Ruby Throated hummingbirds usually arrive in OKC from the Yucatan in late March, and without an abundance of blooming plants and insects, they will be very hungry, so fill your feeders regularly with fresh nectar, and watch!



## CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

Thursday, April 22, is Earth Day. Celebrate every day in your garden with this unique focal point, a 10" stainless steel Earth gazing ball in ethereal blue and mossy green swirls.



## WHAT'S NEW IN THE STORE



We are re-introducing Apollo Belvedere, a very classical, romantic, weathered reproduction of the fourth century Greek sculpture. On a pedestal, adorning any prominent position in the garden or indoors, Apollo will add a feeling of antiquity

to his surroundings. 16"H x 10.5"L x 9.5"W 43 lbs. Other new arrivals include new melamine sets, bunny statues, pillows and rugs, doormats, tools, gloves, flags, pots, fountains, and more weekly!

Tucked in among greenery, these Angora rabbits make a very handsome addition to a garden, regardless of the season. Place them where they can be found as a small surprise as visitors enjoy your garden.



## APRIL 2010 TO DO LIST

- Prune winter flowering vines **after** bloom.
- Prune and feed shrub roses.
- Plant permanent ground cover.
- Plant or repair lawns.
- Plant bare root or container roses, annuals, perennials, fruit trees, and evergreens.
- Feed house plants that are growing or blooming.
- Prune spring flowering or tender shrubs just after bloom.
- Plant vegetable seedlings.
- Plant summer and fall flowering bulbs.

## 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 (405-879-1121) for details or to set up an appointment.



**We have furnished fine gardens for 13 years. Let us help you create your outdoor living room!**

WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM

WILSHIRE  GARDEN  
M A R K E T



**SPRING IS HERE!**

---

Wilshire Garden Market  
2821 West Wilshire Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

---