

# WILSHIRE GARDEN M A R K E T

April, 2015 Newsletter  
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CELEBRATING 18 YEARS

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

## REVOLUTIONARY NEW CONTAINERS

Last spring we were given several woven fabric pots to test. We used them *inside* our glazed terra cotta containers last summer, fall, and winter. Because they are made from geotextile fabric, they slipped inside our pots and were easily removed when their host pot was sold. Since they were lighter weight than a cast stone or glazed terra cotta pot, we could slip the ones planted with tender ferns and annuals and store them planted all winter, ready to be set out again this spring. Made in Oklahoma City, they are the *Smart Pots!* Get them here. You'll like them.



The fabric lets oxygen and moisture permeate the surface of the container, making a very beneficial growing environment. Water moves through the planting soil slowly and evenly, creating an evaporative cooling

effect that prevents heat stress that in Oklahoma's summers causes flower and vegetable production to slow down or stop.

A second benefit is air root pruning. Just like a plant will not send roots up into the air, when roots in a Smart Pot encounter oxygen upon reaching the sides of the fabric container, they branch off, making a mass of smaller roots that absorb water and nutrients the plant needs for maximum growth.

So, plants grown in Smart Pots have the advantages of better drainage, cooler growing medium in hot weather than in the ground, and a quicker warm up in the spring than in-ground planting, and are portable. This is why they are so Smart.

We are excited that Campania has introduced a new line of natural fiber cement containers. They are 25% lighter weight than typical cast stone planters with the look of cast stone. The material is eco-friendly and they are frost and UV resistant as well.



The Urban Planters are contemporary "city loft" in design and are popular nationwide, appearing in many design blogs and magazines.



Customers have been asking for low bowl planters for years and now they are here. This innovative material convincingly replicates the look of lead, iron, or cast stone, but is up to 80% lighter than those traditional materials. Durable and eco-friendly, the low zen bowls are made from clay and natural materials. Use with or without plant stands.

## WE LIKE THESE FOR SPRING

It is finally spring! Easter will be so early this year, we will need to incorporate some extra color in our garden spaces. Large colorful glazed terra cotta



containers, cheerful outdoor pillows, and a tasteful outdoor rug will be perfect partners to make up for any missing blooms in the garden.



Bring the French country lifestyle into your home and garden. New, from France, the best of French country fashion combined with practicality: woven market baskets with leather handles, scarves, and handmade ceramic salt, pepper, and herb grinders in a multitude of provençal designs.



We like everything Easter from crocheted eggs, egg soaps, a darling doormat, precious pillows, pastel garden orbs, and the cutest tea towels.

We all need these tools to have a healthy, tidy garden. Pot plants quickly and easily using the soil scoop. The Hori Hori knife is great for planting in beds even with tough soil.



The trake is an ergonomic two-in-one tool. The Korean weeder is a small plow with a sharp point for weeding. Joyce Chen scissors are the deadheader's dream; the hand rake is the best for cleaning in small spaces without damaging plants.



This trowel and fork set, manufactured by Burgon & Ball and endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society, is part of the stunning Chrysanthemum Collection of garden tools and accessories. The kneelers are made of memory foam for the ultimate in comfort. The tools are formed of tempered stainless steel. The trowel is engraved with a quote from Gertrude Jekyll, one of the most influential gardeners of all time, "The love of gardening is a seed once sown, that never dies."

## HUMMINGBIRDS RETURNING!

According to traditional schedules for tracking hummingbirds returning from Mexico and Panama,



they will be passing through and returning to Oklahoma in mid-April. They make the **20+ hours, 500 mile flight** across the Gulf of Mexico to the coast. Tired and hungry, they travel north an average of 20 miles per day to reach their breeding ground, needing nectar from blooming flowers and

supplemental nectar from hummingbird feeders. The migration is completed by late May.

Because we admire the hummingbirds' beauty, tiny size, and determination, we always have a supply of the best recycled glass feeders in glorious colors to serve their needs. The new red flower ports face upward, eliminating drips and making it easier for the hummingbirds to drink.



Banding studies show that hummingbirds return to the place they hatched, even to the same feeder, so if you "have" hummers, keep them happy; if not yet, keep trying!

## HUMMINGBIRD CAKE RECIPE

1C flour, 1C sugar,  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp cinnamon,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp baking soda, 1 ripe banana, 4 oz crushed pineapple,  $\frac{3}{8}$ C veg. oil,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp vanilla, 2 eggs,  $\frac{1}{8}$ C chopped walnuts if desired, powdered sugar sprinkle. Bake 350. Sift together dry ingredients. In large bowl, mash banana, mix in drained pineapple. Add vegetable oil, eggs, and nuts. Carefully hand-mix these ingredients. Sift dry ingredients into this mixture, mix only until ingredients are blended, no more. Butter and flour cake pan. Bake mixture at 350 for 35 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool, sprinkle with powdered sugar. *No hummingbirds were harmed in the making of this cake.*

## APRIL TO DO LIST

- Clean up plants and flower beds.
- No crape murder pruning, or tree "topping", please.
- Plant hardy, drought tolerant perennials, especially those that have fragrance, variegated foliage and attract and sustain hummingbirds and butterflies.
- Mulch soil with compost or other organic material to moderate soil temperature and save water. Spread under flowers, shrubs, etc. being careful NOT to let mulch touch stems and trunks.
- After all chance of frost is gone, plant or bring out tropical plants such as mandevilla, bougainvillea, and dragon wing begonias.
- Fertilize everything except spring-flowering shrubs.
- If necessary, prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees after blooming period is over.
- By mid-April, hang hummingbird feeders.

## EXTERIOR DECORATING

Are you in need of inspiration and direction for your entryway or patio? Wilshire Garden Market provides an exterior decorating and small space design consultation service. By appointment, for a nominal fee, we will make a consultation visit and follow-up report to make your garden retreat more charming, cohesive, and useful.

Call the store at 405-879-1121 to set up an appointment.



**Let us help you create your outdoor living room!**

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**SPRING IS HERE!!**

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