

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

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CELEBRATING 19 YEARS

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POTS AS FOCAL POINTS

A garden focal point is the most important, interesting, or attractive feature that you concentrate on or that which attracts attention. Areas of the garden are created around focal points. Now, due to the availability of durable materials such as glazed terra cotta, many gardeners are using containers, either planted or left empty, as focal points.

A single pot can create a destination, add height or pizzazz to a mundane, one-level space, fill a gap where nothing will grow, create a vista from indoors, or mask an unsightly view.



A pair of pots can mark an entry to the garden or into the house, even frame and call attention to another focal point.



A group of three or more containers can give privacy, creating a visual garden wall, or create a dramatic approach to a home.



Focal points establish order, letting our eyes find spots of beauty that they search for as they scan the garden. Thoughtful placement of focal points gives the garden visual organization and continuity. Their colors create the intended mood: bold colors create drama and excitement; cool tones are more calming; neutrals convey a natural garden feeling.

A tall narrow pot lends elegance to a garden and height that is often overlooked. Shorter pots can lead the eye through to another portion of the garden, beckoning guests to explore further.

When searching for a container, large pots work in most spaces. Some people make the mistake of getting a pot that is so small it is lost or makes the space look skimpy. The health of plants in small pots is compromised in both hot and cold weather. Fear not, as long as they can drain, cast stone and glazed pots are winterproof. If stumped in your search for a focal point, bring in a picture and we will put our 20 years of experience to work to help steer you in the right direction!

BEAT THE AUGUST HEAT

As a professional gardener said to us recently, "In August we are usually in survival mode." The summer heat is hard on people and even harder on their gardens. We decided to do more research in hopes of uncovering any new tips to protect our containers and gardens from summer stress.



Every source of gardening advice emphasizes the importance of watering properly and sufficiently. If you don't get enough water, you get thirsty and suffer. If you get too much water, you get sick; the



same is true for plants. It is essential to provide at least one inch of water per week, and watering early in the

day is critical. Test the soil around plants by pressing your finger into the soil at the dripline; if it is damp there is enough water; if it is dry, water. Watering with a garden hose is effective; watering **slowly and deeply** is critical. Imagine drinking a glass of water in one gulp; it would be awful and you would still be thirsty if you got just one gulp.

Water the soil, not the plant leaves; watering plant leaves is the equivalent of someone throwing a glass of water in your face instead of letting you drink it. The water must go down, down deep to encourage deep roots and be far away from the hot soil surface. Run the hose at less than half pressure at the plants' drip line, allowing the water to run until the water puddles for 10 seconds before soaking in.

Pay attention to recent typical seasonal rainfall amounts. Use native plants and shrubs that will thrive with less water than others. If you use some plants that require more water, site them near each other close to the house where it will be convenient to attend to them. Monitor your irrigation system heads to make sure they work and are spraying where they should. You can maximize effective watering by using a rain gauge to measure how long the irrigation system must spray to give plants their 1" of water per week. Placing a low rectangular dish under a drip hose will let you know how long it takes to distribute the inch of water.

Keep precious water in the ground by applying organic mulch or planting ground cover. After watering (to avoid burning plants), feed with liquid organic plant fertilizer (fish emulsion). Mix with water and dispense around the plant's dripline with a watering can. Plant fertilizer is vitamins for plants. It will contain Nitrogen to keep plants green and healthy looking, Phosphorus to promote growth and root systems as well as flower blooms, and Potassium to keep plants disease-free.

Protect potted plants by moving them into a shadier area. One suggestion to keep potted plants cool is to fill their saucer with damp sand. You can use moss to mulch potted plants; it is very effective in keeping the soil damp.. Using Smart Pots as liners will also keep your plants up to 20 degrees cooler as the water evaporates; the fabric acts as a heat buffer, not allowing tender root ends to touch the sun heated container..

Splurge a little on good tools like Felco shears that will help you in deadheading and a comfortable trowel. i.e., the Trake, to help you care for plants.



There is comfort in the knowledge that this heat will soon fade into a mild autumn..

OUR FAVORITES



The Coach bag of garden pruners, Felcos are the last pruners you will ever need to buy because you can order new parts! We have ordered a new blade for a customer who used the wrong part to cut wire (yes, there is a wire cutting notch at the base of the blades). The only complaint about Felcos is that husbands want to borrow them and then don't return them. We use this every time we garden.



Our customers tell us how much they love these small rakes. They reach between plants to remove debris without harming the beautiful foliage. One man told us that it is perfect for straightening the fringe on oriental rugs! We keep this in the tub trug, ready to use this every time we garden.

The handiest carrier for garden tools, deadhead clippings, ice, recycling, drinks, toys, laundry, storage, you name it, the Tub Trug is one of the most useful accessories for gardening and/or housekeeping. The tub trugs are made in the USA; their handles are rated to support 150 lbs! They come in all colors.



Rabbits are among the most popular garden accents. No wonder, they're sweet, cute, innocent looking creatures that make a garden seem even more magical. A new seated hare just hopped in.

Antiques whose reproduction was authorized by the Newport Historical Society, the charming Newport Rabbits could have been the models for a Victorian children's storybook. Singly, or used opposing at a gate or entrance as shown, they will only make a garden more enchanting.



Birds are also favorite accent pieces and gift items. The trio of small birds perched together is a unique, very realistic statue. In brown or grey finishes, it is a lovely addition to a garden.

The dove represents peacefulness and what better place for peace than in the garden. It is fun to use these handcrafted forms of nature among plants in the garden, on the patio, and in container plantings.



AUGUST GARDEN TO DO LIST

- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals
- Prune summer blooming shrubs (Hydrangeas, etc.) after flowers finish.
- Plan fall and winter gardens with ornamental grasses and fall blooming bulbs.
- Harvest vegetables to stretch the season.



WHO'S COMING FOR DINNER?

Set a table with April Cornell summer table linens, some seasonally colorful dinner ware, and



make summer meals into dinner parties, even if just for two. The preparation, serving, and consumption of delicious food are made even more enjoyable with beautiful table linens.. Designed from nature and culture, they will be perfect on dining

tables indoors or outdoors. It was difficult to choose from such a gorgeous collection.

When it is time to clean up, dry your silver and glassware with April Cornell cotton tea towels in seasonal garden designs that are art on fabric. This watercolor art is "Tumbling Hydrangeas".



COOL WATERMELON SALAD!

With the sweet watermelon and salty, fragrant Feta cheese, this is the epitome of refreshing summer salads.

Serves 2.

1.25 lb. tub of cubed watermelon

2 oz crumbled Feta cheese

1 large sprig Basil chopped

2T White wine vinegar (or try fresh lime juice or balsamic vinegar).

There are many alternative ingredients that you can try such as arugula, thin slices of red onion, heirloom tomatoes, or chopped mint.



EXTERIOR DECORATING

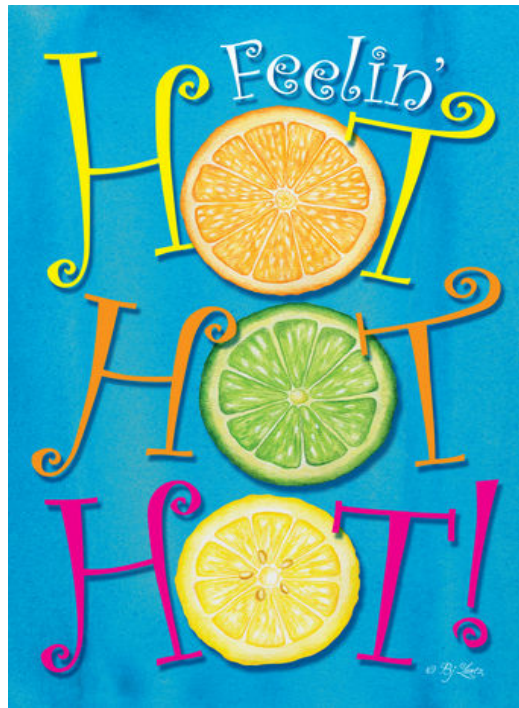
Are you in need of some inspiration for your entryway or patio? Wilshire Garden Market provides an exterior decorating and small space design consultation service. By appointment, for a nominal fee, we will make a consultation visit and follow-up report to make your garden retreat more charming, cohesive,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

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