

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

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 CELEBRATING 19 YEARS

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COOL, CALM, AND COLLECTED

Add a fountain to your outdoor spaces and the sight and sound of its free flowing water will immediately have an hypnotic cooling and calming effect, a great antidote for warm summer days. Many people want to add a fountain to their gardens and are uncertain about what is needed; they wonder about the workings of fountains, what type of fountain is best for their situation, and any maintenance required.

Questions asked include "How does a fountain work?" "Do we need a water source? Will it make my water bill higher?" The answer is "Fountains recirculate water through a small pump. All you need is a grounded electrical plug and a level area."



This brings us to the question of where to locate a lovely fountain. Consider the view out of windows that would be enhanced by a two tier fountain as a vista focal point. Perhaps there is a flower bed that needs height and visual interest. An electrical outlet that accepts a three prong plug will allow its placement in the garden (or heavy duty extension cord if it does not have to cross an area with foot traffic).



If the sight and sound of a fountain would enhance a patio seating area, a mid-size fountain may be the best fit. This simple cast stone bowl with bamboo design on its stone disc top is one of many styles; the sheet of water flowing over the stone makes a very pleasant random dripping sound. Glazed terra cotta jar fountains with the same falling water principle have no splattering and are perfect for patios and garden settings. Birds will appreciate the flowing water on warm days as well as you will!

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The M-Series is a line of diminutive fountains ideal for a screened in porch, sunroom, and an intimate seating area. Many of these fountains are reproductions of larger fountains. Again, all you need are a grounded outlet and a small amount of water about once a week. In winter, empty the water out of the fountain. Fountain covers are available for mid-size to large fountains. Add a fountain this year. A garden with a fountain combines serenity and joy!

SUMMER IN THE STORE



Summer is for the birds and we love them; they bring unparalleled life to the garden. Bring more life to your garden and watch an array of birds by providing them with at least one bird bath full of clean drinking and bathing water. The Juliet bird bath has a pair of birds attached to give the real birds the idea.

It is always fun to explore someone's garden when you find little surprises, little statues almost hidden under a large leaf or the clever use of a decorative object. Flutter bird can be used in a bird bath or tucked among flowers in a container. Flutter makes a great gift.



If you haven't started attracting hummingbirds, now is the time! Quick as can be and tiny, they are so much fun to watch. There are many styles of hummingbird feeders made of beautiful glass; hanging feeders and feeders on stakes

to use in a container or in the garden. The nectar is easy to make, no boiling necessary. Feed them and they will come; they are hungry!

Protect your eyes and skin from the sun with colorful, crushable, washable, packable, top rated sun protection UPF50 hats (blocks 98% of harmful UV radiation)! The fabric looks like and feels like grosgrain ribbon, thus the hats are named Ribbon Rollers. They are a must have for every gardener and every traveler.



Change the look of your patio furniture with Sunbrella outdoor fabric. Sammy chose seats in pastel blue with ivory piping and pastel striped pillows.



April Cornell's Summer Sparrow patchwork tablecloth is the newest in our collection. The garland of flowers is embroidered. Fantastic!



HOT TIPS FOR SUMMER POTS

First, the potting soil you use matters. If you don't use Miracle Gro Water Control potting soil with gel crystals that retain and release water slowly, get it the next time you plant anything, because it really works to conserve water and feed plants simultaneously. Oh and always use new potting soil every year; most of the nutrients will have leached out of old potting soil from year to year.



Second, if you haven't begun to plant in Smart Pots as liners for large containers, try one, you will love them. We were curious and maybe a little doubtful but after trying them last summer, fall, and

through the winter, we were convinced. They are conveniently not heavy when you want to move a plant; they are beneficial for the plants because they create a much more robust root system and keep them 20 degrees cooler in the summer heat.

Third, water wisely. Water everything early in the morning. Water everything slowly, deeply, thoroughly, with a showering hose attachment for the greatest absorption until you see water coming out of the bottom of the pot. When watering a con-



tainer planting, lift the trailing branches and water underneath them, especially around the outside edge of the container; the new roots that take up water and food are on the outer edge of the root mass. Last but not least, fertilize only **after** you have watered to avoid burning the plants. Have a beautiful summer!

JULY TO DO LIST

- Maintain 2"-3" of mulch in flower beds.
- Snip herbs as first flowers appear for maximum flavor.
- Pinch back leggy annuals and perennials to encourage bushy growth.
- Stop pinching back mums to allow them to set flower buds.
- Water potted plants more frequently in hot weather, water in the morning.
- Pull weeds to keep them from spreading.
- Provide a birdbath full of clean water for the birds in your garden, four or five feet away from feeders so debris does not fall into water.
- Enjoy your garden even more now that things are slowing down.

Summer is the stuff of dreams. When adults sit at their desks, and children sit in school, they dream of summer. Summer is the time of infinite fun. The day seems to last forever, and the fun never stops. It is a time of romance, excitement and an enjoyment of life.

EXTERIOR DECORATING

Are you in need of some inspiration for your entry-way 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!

