

WILSHIRE GARDEN M A R K E T

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CELEBRATING 16 YEARS

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STYLE STARTS OUTDOORS

In this, the most bizarre spring EVER, we Okies have sweated and blanketed ourselves and our plants, worn galoshes, and headed for cover; our arms are sore from carrying plants in and out. Enough already, cheer up; June is the premier gardening month! Here are some tips for making a good impression outdoors before you even reach your front door!

We frequently write about the importance of creating an attractive entry; depending on the style of your home or vacation home, an entry could include a full porch. Porches were originally created to provide a place to rest, relax, and enjoy cool breezes prior to air conditioning. In spite of modern conveniences such as air



conditioning, pools, and entertainment options, most of us who have them still like to spend time on our porches. It has been said that the front porch is the extension of the soul of your home. At the very least, it is the image that your home projects to the world.

Just for fun, try an experiment: walk into the front door instead of driving into the garage and going

straight into the house. Is your porch clean and free from clutter?

Are pots in good repair and lushly planted? If you have a porch large enough for pieces of furniture,



design professionals suggest using an outdoor rug under your furniture to designate a seating area.

Find an outdoor rug with an interesting pattern and color that can be echoed in outdoor pillows, pots,



and plants. Mixing patterns is fun and effective; in a recent book, well known decorator Charles Faudree illustrated using five patterns effectively together on a sofa; we have taken the idea outdoors.

Comfort encompasses beauty; furniture and accessories are just as important outdoors as indoors. When selecting outdoor furniture cushions, consider using a solid or neutral color, incorporating patterns through the outdoor rug and pillows. Vary the pillows according to the season.

Large pots help define your outdoor living area. Think big and think style. Choose containers that complement the style of your home. One large container can mark the edge of an outdoor living room. A group of three adds softness, color, and texture to another side, visually bringing together the entire vignette. Fill a blank wall while adding color, texture and movement with a large pot containing a metal topiary form planted with an abundantly blooming vine.



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Whether you have a porch or patio, create a place, an extension of your indoor living area, where you can sit comfortably to have a glass of tea, read a book, and enjoy the great outdoors. What an easy way to add a room to your home!

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WHAT'S NEW IN THE GARDEN

A customer brought in a bottle of fountain cleanser; her enthusiasm for its effectiveness encouraged us to try a sample. Convinced it works and is harmless to birds and animals, we ordered a case; we encourage you to try a bottle for your fountain if you experience recurring algae.



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Our metal artisans have brought in new trellises, rose domes, and clematis tuteurs, garden forms for vertical interest in the garden. A rose dome or a tuteur covered in clematis or any beautiful blooming climber in the ground or in a large pot can establish

importance at entries or mark the change from one area of the garden to another.



hook.

From the makers of all things tiny for the garden, more of the most amazingly cute little fantasy garden accents have arrived. This darling early American saltbox has two chimneys and tiny working doors!



As if that were not enough, there is a teeny wire basket with six wine bottles, each with a label that is readable with a magnifying glass! The vintage wine bottle has a faded label. The detail is truly amazing.

Back in stock is an all time favorite: the tiny gazebo with chandelier. This will look darling surrounded by dwarf conifers with a tiny wire bistro set or bird bath in the center. Creeping Thyme, Irish moss are perfect green "lawns", as is dormant green moss for terrariums or indoor settings. Cute!



FATHER'S DAY GIFT IDEAS

Skip the wallet and socks and go straight for the garden gifts for Father's Day! Get Dad a simple bamboo fountain kit and help him make a patio fountain in about 10 minutes.



Give Dad even more peace and serenity with an attractive set of Temple Bells in brass.

Inspired by distant ancient Chinese temples, they have become a classic garden accent. It is said that ringing a bell brings prosperity and goodness, so this gift is a symbol of good wishes.

An entire area of the garden can be transformed in minutes into a peaceful retreat with these two accessories.

Give Dad a tie; in fact give him dozens in stripes and plaids covering a comfy hammock pillow of his very own.

A coordinating lantern will provide a soft evening glow. With its sturdy metal handle, it can hang or rest on a wall or table.



JUNE TO DO LIST

- Check roses for blackspot, powdery mildew, and aphids. If a problem is detected, treat with Garden Safe Fungicide 3-in-1.
- Plant warm season vegetables if you like to grow them.
- Deadhead lilacs down to a set of leaves.
- Keep newly planted trees consistently moist in preparation for summer heat.
- Plant an area of catnip if cats bother your garden.
- Divide tall bearded iris every 3 years. Write the name or color on the back of one leaf.
- Cut lavender blooms in the early morning before the sun burns off the aromatic oils.
- Continue sowing carrots, beets, radishes, salad greens, dill.
- Plant Cilantro every two weeks for constant supply.
- Top dress flower beds with organic fertilizer and compost.
- Identify and pull weeds out of flower beds.
- If and when it stops raining, make sure your garden gets an inch of water each week.
- Prune *spring flowering* shrubs NOW.

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!

