

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

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 CELEBRATING 19 YEARS

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COUNTDOWN TO MARCH 20

The first day of spring, the March Equinox, is officially March 20; there will be cold days, too cold to plant, between then and April 15, the first frost-safe date. Until that warm spring day finally arrives and remains, find new containers that will give your entryway an updated look. Make this year the year for beautiful pots! Pots for the front entry, pots for the patio, pots for the lake!

Take a picture of your entry for style and color references when you are out shopping. Measure the



height and width of the area, the largest size pot makes for the best success for all plants; the new *small* container diameter is 18". Often cast stone looks best for the traditional home entry; glazed terra cotta urns or classic styles in a neutral or subtle color

can also work well.

Sleek pots in glazed terra cotta or modern



lightweight materials are perfect contemporary companions. Plant with a hardy evergreen topiary, such as boxwood, for a clean look. These pots and plants can remain outdoors safely year round.

The patio is an outdoor room of your home. Continue the colors and style of your home and its interior with your outdoor furnishings and pots. You can use a color wheel from the internet to help with color combinations. Use your windows and doors as picture frames to create beautiful patio vignettes with pots that can be seen from indoors.

Create a focal point or the illusion of privacy on the patio with a grouping of three large pots. Surround yourself in color with an array of glazed terra cotta



pots abundantly overflowing with foliage and blooms.



New glazed terra cotta colors this year include Eau de Nil (pale watercolor green shown), Lava Purple, Aqua, and Galaxy black. Plant materials will **pop** with color when placed in these pots. All colors will look great with this

green. Celebrate the arrival of spring and its warm temperatures by surrounding yourself with beautifully planted pots!

GARDEN TRENDS FOR 2016

1. Widespread interest in growing edible plants along with the desire for good health and knowing the source of where our food is grown has prompted the popularity of growing and sharing edibles. Flower sharing with hospices and seed sharing groups are also showing up across the country.



2. A toned-down color palette in outdoor flowers is very popular. With neutrals and whites being popular inside the home, the same is happening with blooming plants. Clean, fresh, and optimistic, white and blue are the most popular flower colors for this spring.

3. Old fashioned flowers with delicate tones reminiscent of granny's garden are making a comeback.

4. Outdoor lighting using LEDs highlight focal point trees and walls covered in climbing vines.

5. Plants have been genetically engineered to give the same punch but with smaller size to fit smaller garden spaces.



6. Geometric shapes are in, not only in the shape of plants, but with regard to flower beds.

7. Plants have been bred to have bigger blooms, repeat blooms, and more fragrance.

8. New compact varieties of old favorites will make gardening easier and more interesting. Plants to watch include Double Shot Grape Azalea and Mountain Pepper, a refined evergreen shrub.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE STORE

Can you believe Easter will be on March 27? Our faux chickens are eager and they brought along beautiful faux eggs for a stunning centerpiece.



In pillows, statuary, or doormats, bunnies want to be included in the holiday ambiance.



French egg soaps, in six very yummy scents, make perfect hostess gifts and adult Easter basket items.



TRY THESE!

This recipe is a fresh take on deviled eggs. It uses two of the top 10 recommended healthy foods: avocados and free range eggs.



Ingredients: using 3 egg yolks to 1 large avocado, 1 T finely diced fresh cilantro, 3 tsp. fresh lime juice; 1T finely diced red or green onion, and a pinch of salt and pepper.

Boil eggs for 17 minutes, and then plunge eggs into bowl of ice and water to cool. While eggs are boiling, peel and mash ripe avocado, add lime juice, diced cilantro, onion, salt and pepper. Peel cooled eggs, slice and remove yolks, mash yolks with a fork until well blended; add to avocado mixture and spoon into eggs. Garnish with a small cilantro leaf. The lime juice provides a light expected tang. (even better second day after flavors have developed). These are an interesting alternative appetizer for an early spring brunch.

FLOWER OF THE MONTH

March is synonymous with the onset of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. The Daffodil is March's Flower of the Month. Daffodil and Jonquil are the common names for *Narcissus*. A gift of these conveys friendship and happiness, and indeed they look like a happy flower. Not everyone realizes that Daffodil bulbs are *poisonous*.



The flower was introduced as a replacement for the humble leek. Daffodils are now grown commercially in mid-Wales to produce galantamine for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

MARCH TO DO LIST

- Get your journal ready to record bloom times, temperatures, rains, successes and failures; compare with other years.
- Check mulch.
- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals and/or carrots, beets, radishes and lettuces.
- Set out rosemary, chives and thyme.
- Set out summer flowering bulbs
- Plant summer blooming shrubs and vines.
- Plant conifers and broad leaf evergreens.
- Clean leaves and debris from water gardens and ponds.
- Cut down ornamental grasses before they sprout.
- Prune deciduous trees and shrubs now while they are dormant.
- Sow alyssum seeds under roses for a sweet smelling accent carpet.
- Shout hooray for spring!

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!

