

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

March 2010 Newsletter
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Celebrating 13 Years

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Established 1997

LET'S HEAR IT FOR SPRING!

Tired of snow forecasts? Fear not, the first day of spring will be Saturday, March 20! March can be a little unpredictable, however once spring begins in earnest, it can take on the characteristics of a steam roller, so be prepared. Take advantage of chillier days by doing indoor maintenance such as cleaning small tools or adding a couple of top quality tools to your arsenal. Transplant houseplants to new pots if necessary; it will give your home a fresh feel of spring. Take stock of any stored garden accessories that might need cleaning, repairing, or replacing. Then you can spend beautiful days lolling about in the garden.



Take a walkabout and really look at your home, garden and patio. The human eye constantly subconsciously scans its environment for visually pleasing objects. We recognize that the qualities of certain objects are inherently pleasing to us on some unspoken level. Most significantly, the perfect proportion, known as the **Golden Ratio** plays a key role in what appears pleasing to us. We continuously encourage customers to think about the size of their home in relationship to the containers they purchase; most people err on the small side. A pair of large containers can help set the desired ambiance for your home and garden, whether at the

entrance or in the private patio and back gardens. Containers are one of the simplest and most effective home and garden improvements and will last a lifetime. A pair of large pots or urns gives greater presence and balance to entries and mark entrances to and from garden areas. Classic cast stone containers should be as much a part of a home's décor as white shirts are to any wardrobe. A home without entry containers looks undressed.

Nothing says longevity like cast stone planters. They are typically chosen because they are classic, regal, and add visual weight to any setting. Cast stone and concrete differ in two respects. First, cast stone has a classier name. "You make roadside curbs out of concrete; you make beautiful urns out of cast stone," said David Tanguay, of Campania International. Second, cast stone is stronger and less permeable than concrete, making it more resistant to the elements. Cast-stone pots are heavy and, therefore, not easily moved. But a planting in a cast-stone pot will rarely blow over.



Glazed terra cotta is about color; the choices are nearly limitless. Designs range from ornate to sleek; with that variety, glazed terra cotta is extremely versatile.



Fired and glazed, it is well suited to hold up to all weather, as long as the containers have adequate drainage. The range of colors provides opportunities to create a variety of stunning seasonal plantings.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE STORE

Glazed terra cotta pots in "falling color" glaze. This



is an easy way to incorporate subtle change into an existing color scheme. There are brown with falling blue glaze and brown with falling jade glaze.



Outdoor pillows abound in the store; more new patterns than in any previous season. From a whimsical peacock, owl, or alligator designed by their in-house artist, to traditional watercolor prints of hollyhocks, peach poppies, or geraniums by Judy Buswell, these new designs coordinate with existing patterns.



We persuaded our pillow company to introduce the Judy Buswell designs; her designs are works of art that enhance the garden setting. Made of Sundure fabric, the pillows are weather resistant and dry quickly if they get wet. They're simply gorgeous!

Add a little more springtime to your kitchen and give these as friend or hostess gifts. We have a good supply of spring rabbits or tulip bouquet flour sack tea towels. These are enjoyable to use and they make very attractive gifts.



MAKE THIS PROJECT AHEAD

This Easter or spring project can be started indoors two weeks before the holiday to be given as gifts or used as a table decoration.



Adapt for small pots or baskets as place setting favors. For a large display, find a deep tray as shown, or an attractive vintage basket; fill the bottom with several inches of packing material, cover with a sturdy plastic trash bag, fill 3" - 4" deep with potting soil, and dampen. Trim off excess plastic. Buy wheatgrass seeds at Akins or any health food shop. Sprinkle seeds generously on dampened soil, barely press into soil, cover lightly with several sheets of dampened newspaper and put aside in a dark corner for several days until seeds begin to sprout. Mist with water to keep soil damp, not wet. As grass grows, expose it to bright indirect light. Turn daily to keep grass sprigs upright; it will be perfect in 10 days. Place small lightweight bunnies, eggs, or other decorative items amid the grass. Who could resist this?

MARCH TO DO LIST

- Start feeding and watering houseplants.
- Avoid walking on wet soil in the garden.
- Clean, sharpen, and oil garden tools.
- Plant cool season annuals such as pansies and violas for early spring color.
- Prune dead wood out of trees.
- Prune only damage out of shrubs.
- Transplant roses, ornamental trees and shrubs before the leaf buds open.
- Gently clean up under plants.
- Cut back monkey grass before it sprouts.
- Apply organic fertilizer to shrubs and perennials.
- Feed peonies with a low nitrogen fertilizer when they are 2 to 3 inches tall.
- Clean water features and fountains in preparation for use.

**"The winds blow hard and cold
But the gardener has nought to fear
A well kept garden stands proud and bold
All ready for the coming year"**

-by David Squire

LINDA VATER SEMINAR - MARCH 2010!

Saturday,
March 27, 2010

An Easter Basket Even An
Adult Would Go Ga-Ga For!

These informal seminars begin at 10:30 a.m. and are one hour in length, with time for questions at the conclusion. The fee is \$10 per person; seating is somewhat limited, so call now to reserve a space. A door prize is given at each seminar. Please join us!

NEW PLANT FOR 2010

Proven Winner's Emerald Lace chartreuse Sweet Potato vine will be popular this year. Its smaller leaves will make it even more heat resistant and drought tolerant.



BEST NEW ANNUAL



Snow Princess is touted as being a fabulous new plant for our area. A Lobularia hybrid, it is a breakthrough in heat tolerance and exceptionally long bloom time or season performance. For use in hanging baskets and container planting, it is perfect filler to combine with other plants.

EXTERIOR DECORATING

This year give yourself a garden retreat, or refresh the one you have. By appointment and for a fee, we will make a consultation visit followed by written suggestions to make your garden retreat more charming, cohesive, and useful. Call the store 405-879-1121 for more details or to set up an appointment.



**We have furnished fine gardens for 13 years.
Let us help you create your outdoor living room!**

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M A R K E T



EASTER IS EARLY THIS YEAR!

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