

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

Winter 2011 Newsletter
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 Celebrating 14 Years

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EVERYTHING IS BETTER OUTDOORS



If it weren't for bitterly cold winter, perhaps we would have less appreciation for spring. Winter offers valuable downtime for plants and gardeners, we can use that downtime to look at the garden primarily from indoors, browse through magazines and catalogs, dream of an early and very long spring, and plan. Plan is the key word for winter; we plan which seeds, or new plants we want to try, we plan in order to correct mistakes we made last year, to advance in our gardening and decorating prowess, and improve our outdoor living spaces.

Make a folder of pictures of garden vignettes that you would like to replicate. Also taking pictures, especially black and white pictures, of your garden throughout the year helps reveal flaws or holes.



Take stock of your garden tools. You will need gloves that fit with no large holes. For a healthy garden, you will need Felco pruners, a hand rake, a rake, a soil scoop (they're scooptastic!), and a pair of Joyce Chen garden scissors. If you didn't clean your garden tools before you put them away last season, you

can try to renew them now by wiping them all over with linseed oil; it is good for wood handles and keeps metal parts from getting rusty. Only oil Felco pruners with Felco oil or linseed oil. Get a tub trug to use as a carryall for garden tools and a receptacle for garden clippings. Then, when the time comes, you will be well prepared.

Freshening up your outdoor areas is fulfilling and, for any practical souls reading this, it adds value to your home. Look at the interior style and color scheme and how it does or does not relate to your outdoor living area. Would pots of a certain color or shape make your space more cohesive? If you need new pots or more pots, plan for them now to get first choice and before you are ready to plant in them. Would a new rug under patio furniture make the patio more inviting? If you would like fresh, new seat cushions, measure the existing cushions or bring them in now before you are ready to entertain. With weather resistant materials and fibers used to create pots, outdoor rugs, art, electronics, furniture, and downy soft cushions and pillows, fashion will follow you outdoors.



For these last cold days, browse magazines and collect pictures of the best gardens or patios to fit your personality and lifestyle. Make a few garden resolutions that you can keep. Longer, warmer days will be here soon; make this the season when you achieve your outdoor living dreams!

WHAT'S NEW IN THE STORE

This pillow screams "Welcome Spring!" The pillow artists have created beautiful new designs; our first shipment has just arrived.



Valentine flags and flags for spring have arrived, ready to bring instant seasonal color to your garden or entryway. They are versatile, as well as quick and easy to install: just press the flag stand into the ground or they can be placed in pots to brighten any area patio. They also make great gifts.



Your valentine and hummingbirds will love you when you give the gift of a sparkling red recycled glass hummingbird feeder. They are available in round globes that can be hung from trees, feeders on stakes, and this fabulous six port chandelier. Hummingbirds are scheduled to return to this region mid-April; until then display it empty for its jewel like beauty.

GARDENER VALENTINES



From garden to bath, what could be more thoughtful and generous than 200 gram heart shaped soaps in soft pastels gently scented with camellia and tea rose, two of nature's favorite fragrances? They smell heavenly. The beauty of Provence is inscribed in the soaps, having just arrived for Valentine gift giving. The heart shaped container is a cast stone planter by Campania International that can be used as a birdbath or bird feeder. It has been shown filled with rose petals in several national magazines. Both are lovely, long lasting gifts.



We love, love, love flour sack tea towels and they continue getting prettier and prettier. These are among the new Valentine and spring styles in stock now. Anyone will appreciate receiving and enjoy using these artfully designed tea towels.

FEBRUARY TO DO LIST



Order seeds for song bird butterfly gardens from catalogs. You can order online from www.kitchengardenseeds.com There are lots of seeds in these packs, and mine all came up, so go in with a friend. Attract birds with food, sheltering evergreens, and preferably moving water.

- Sow seeds of warm season vegetables and annuals indoors. Grow only what are precious and that you will eat. Grow only what you can store or give away. Get one indulgence for fun.
- Sow seeds of hardy spring annuals
- Plant cool season vegetable seedlings.
- Order summer bulbs: lilies, etc.

PERENNIAL OF THE YEAR

Amsonia Hubrichtii 'Arkansas Blue Star' is the 2011 pick of the Perennial Plant Association based on low maintenance, pest and disease resistance, and

multiple seasonal interest. It grows in zones 4-9 in mounded form 36" H x 36" W. with 2"-3"



clusters of light blue star shaped flowers borne above fernlike foliage. It grows in full sun to partial shade, requiring average moisture. The *Amsonia* looks well planted en masse in the garden. The Perennial Plant Association began their helpful practice of designating plants of the year in 1990.

TIME TO PRUNE WISTERIA

The secrets to making a wisteria bloom are providing plenty of sunshine and pruning properly at the proper time. Timing and technique; there, now you know. **The best time to prune is mid to late winter, which is sometime from late January through mid-February. You can also prune a bit in late July.** How you prune is very important.



Examine your wisteria closely. You will see that the mass of twining branches sprout from some thicker main canes. Using your sharp bypass Felco pruners, shorten the smaller shoots to four or five buds, making the cut about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above the topmost bud. It causes the vine to form clusters of blooming spurs and the entire plant will be covered with blooms at every bud.

EXTERIOR DECORATING

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 14 years.
Let us help you create your outdoor living room!**

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**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY!**

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