

WILSHIRE GARDEN M A R K E T

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Established 1997

FURNISHING YOUR GARDEN RETREAT

The span of summer days ahead brings thoughts of rejoined families spending leisure time together, much of it outdoors in garden areas. Gardens and their adjoining areas are now known as outdoor living rooms, dining rooms, and kitchens. The idea was introduced worldwide at the Chelsea Flower Show in 1999. Bringing the Indoors Outside or "blurring the lines" between the two was the theme featured in their garden vignettes and that spark of an idea is now a raging inferno that has changed the way that people think about their patios. Most homeowners are realizing the value of their outdoor living spaces and in many households, garden retreats have become the home's hub of activity.

Within the garden retreat, color has burst upon the scene this year. Garden furnishings were once available only in green or brown, with an occasional black, or white set thrown in. Garden furniture is now available in truly scrumptious colors to choose from, such as butter yellow, tangerine, rosebud, fuchsia, chartreuse, blue, and poppy red as well.

Folding tables and chairs were created at the end of the 1800's for small cafes in France. The bistro furniture that Wilshire Garden Market carries was developed from the original patent registered by Edouard Lecler in 1889. Our philosophy is to offer furniture that is of long lasting quality and style that does not look like it was picked up on a Saturday Sam's run. Bistro furniture is beautiful, durable, and useful. Some of Europe's finest designers work to combine comfort, style, and practicality to this furniture. Made of steel and painted with numerous coats of automotive paint, it passes rigorous "sit tests" of 300 lbs for 30,000 uses. Its sizes and shapes make it versatile enough to fit a variety of situations; many pieces fold for storage. Tables range from 24"-54" round, 28" square, to 118" rectangular. Styles range from romantic to sleek contemporary.



Cafes and resorts from Barcelona and throughout the Mediterranean have been using bistro furniture for decades and now we are learning to enjoy this urban casual furniture.

Teak is another obvious choice in garden furnishings. Teak is a deciduous hardwood from the highlands of Southeast Asia. It has a naturally high oil content that makes it both stable and resistant to rotting when exposed to the elements. For several centuries teak has been the choice for yacht decks and yacht construction. It can be oiled to retain its original color; however that annual chore is not neces-



sary. Teak ages naturally to a lovely silver patina and will last approximately 100 years.

The teak furniture that Wilshire Garden Market supplies for customers is made in England by the world's oldest and largest teak furniture manufacturer. The wood is grown in a 150 year old managed plantation; the trees are carefully selected and harvested, and new trees are regularly planted to replenish the supply.

Teak furniture is available in a range of styles from classic to mission style, adding an elegant touch that will enhance virtually every garden setting. Although teak is actually very comfortable, cushions or several fluffy pillows can be added for extra added comfort and color.

The furniture gracing a garden retreat is no longer just a picnic table on which to slap paper plates piled high with picnic food; it is the personal representation of its owner, and is just as important to the character of the home as the indoor dining room furniture.

WICKED, WICKED WEEDS

Annual weeds produce up to 15,000 seeds! Weed seeds are carried by the wind, water, people, and animals. The spread of weeds can be stopped by never allowing them to go to seed. Learn to identify weeds vs. other young seedlings, weed the garden effectively, do weekly checks of your garden, and apply mulch to discourage weed growth before they start. Perennial weeds, such as dandelions, must be dug up by the root to prevent their return.

JUNE TO DO LIST

- Prune and feed azaleas immediately after bloom.
- Soak newly transplanted trees unless rainfall is abundant.
- Feed roses with complete fertilizer in June. Watch for aphids, powdery mildew, and black spot.
- Feed container plants every two weeks.
- Seed perennials in June for next year.
- Treat yard for June bug larvae.

JUNE'S FLOWER IS THE ROSE

Everyone loves roses, although not everyone knows how to care for roses in the garden. Caring for roses is not as difficult as it is rumored to be. Work into your garden routine some simple procedures and have beautiful, healthy roses.

Roses should be pruned lightly in the spring. Spray roses regularly with a well known brand of preventative for black spot (make this part of your gardening routine). Deadhead the flowers to allow the plant to prepare another flowering. Prune a small amount of the stem after each flower has finished encouraging more blooms. Cut just above a stem that has five leaves facing toward the outer edge of the plant to encourage blooming growth in that direction.



Remove all clippings from underneath to prevent disease. Water the plant well at its roots; roses need an inch of water each week. Apply several inches of mulch in the fall being careful not to place mulch right next to the trunk, and fertilize established roses in June and in the late winter. Keep watch for aphids, powdery mildew, as well as black spot.

For a stunning vignette, plant Clematis in a complimentary color to mingle into a climbing rose. A small climbing rose trained on an umbrella rose tuteur makes a beautiful vertical garden feature.

TOADALLY AT HOME

We have been stocking terra cotta toad houses since we opened the store seven years ago. The English distributor told us that toads love to find damp, cool hiding places in the shade during the hot summer days, and we have been telling our customers. We have been carrying signed original toad houses by potter Mike Paluska for more than a year. They are high fired to be resistant to winter weather (note the chimney). This photograph was sent in by a customer who recently purchased a ceramic toad house. She placed the toad house over a toad in her garden, and then she was concerned



that the toad might be too large to get out through the front door, so she picked up the toad house and moved it a distance away. The next morning, she picked up the toad house and the toad had let himself back in.

GARDEN TOUR FOR CONNOISSEURS

The annual Garden Tour for Connoisseurs will be held Saturday, June 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. rain or shine. Beth Wagner and Hugh Stout are Co-Chairmen of the event which is a fundraiser to support the mission of the Oklahoma Horticulture Society. Advance tickets are \$10; at the door, tickets are \$12. Purchase tickets at most northwest Oklahoma City garden centers and at Gardenworks in Norman. Come to the Linda Vater Vertical Gardening seminar and then go to the garden tour for a day of learning and inspiration!

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NEWS

We initiated our newsletter in January 2004 and we are happy to have received so much favorable feedback. We encourage anyone who has email but still receives this newsletter by snail mail to allow us to email the monthly newsletter link to you. The email newsletter is in vibrant COLOR, and you will receive it before the paper version is delivered by the post office. If you are interested, send us an email at newsletter@wilshiregardenmarket.com requesting this change. You will need Acrobat Reader to view the email newsletter.

SEMINAR SERIES 2005

These 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. Door prizes are given at each seminar. Please join us!

Sat., June 4	Linda Vater	"Vertical Gardening"
Fri., July 8	Linda Vater	"Shade Gardening"
Sat., Aug. 27	Linda Vater	"How to keep Your Garden Looking Good"
Fri., Sep. 16	Linda Vater	"Container Gardening"
Sat., Oct. 15	Linda Vater	"Bulbs"

EXTERIOR DECORATING

This year give yourself a garden retreat, or refresh the one you have. In response to repeated requests, Wilshire Garden Market now provides an exterior decorating consultation service. 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 for more details or to set up an appointment.



Let us help you create your outdoor living room!

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