

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

SEPTEMBER, 2009 Newsletter
Vol. 6, No.8
CELEBRATING 12 YEARS

2821 Wilshire Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73116
(405) 879-1121 www.wilshiregardenmarket.com
Established 1997

AN INVITING ENTRY AND A PERFECT PATIO

Have you ever driven by someone's house and wondered what the inside might look like based on the front entry? Your home is a haven for family and friends; take the time to stage an attractive entry that also speaks well of the inside. We hear the term 'staging' in terms of improving the appearance of a



home prior to putting it on the market. What is 'staging'? Staging is presenting or arranging objects in a space to best showcase the area while utilizing the space in the best possible manner. When staging the entry, consider three things:

- 1) Is the area well maintained?
- 2) Is the area maneuverable or cluttered?
- 3) Does it look beautiful?

It is easier to recognize that a problem exists with an area than it is to be able to solve the problem. Before attempting to decorate, thoroughly clean the area and repair anything that is in disrepair. Try removing everything to really see the space, returning only the most beloved items. Check to make sure there is

adequate lighting for guests' safety. Consider adding some welcoming color to the area. Guests should have ample room to approach the entry



without tripping over clutter. Invest in a quality doormat that will last for a number of seasons.

Some porches are large enough to accommodate a bench or even a small grouping of furniture while other front doors are set forward with less space. Nearly every entry has space for planters. Planters should be large enough to be the focal point and to sustain healthy plant material year round. Maximum curb appeal can be attained with well planted containers at the entry. Having a pair of lovely containers at the entry is like having a vase of fresh cut flowers daily.





Patio staging is slightly different; clutter can happen more easily here than at the entry. Again, remove everything, putting back only the best items. Begin with the largest pieces, furniture, placing them so that they can be easily accessed or used. Use baker's racks for plants, lighting, or treasure, not clutter.



Place well planted containers in groups of three or in pairs in open spots. More than any other device, multiple pairs of garden ornaments invite

passage from the patio to the garden. For the best effect, use one type of object, such as oversized pots, obelisks, or statues of similar size and appearance.



Once all of the bones are in place, embellish. Resist buying inexpensive clutter; buy items that will endure the elements, such as exterior rugs, pillows, and containers that are made for outdoor use in this climate. Then enjoy fall in your garden and patio!

WHAT'S NEW IN THE STORE



Perhaps the prettiest candles ever, the new Sweet Bay Bird candles have arrived. Each Bird Botanical candle starts with an Audubon Society bird image being cut out and applied by hand. A nonprofit bird rehabilitation facility will receive a portion of the profits nationwide. Quantities are limited.

Along with the Sweet Bay Bird candles, favorites Bitter Orange Spice and Spicy Apple candles are in stock.



A garden flag is an easy way to bring a spot of seasonal color and welcome guests to the front of your home! Fade resistant and washable, these flags will last for years. A year's assortment of seasonal flags makes a nice gift. An array of styles as beautiful as watercolor paintings is available with subjects of interest and color palettes for a variety of gardens and home styles.



HUMMINGBIRD JEWELS



Nothing attracts hummingbirds like color, and there is nothing more attractive than hand blown recycled glass hummingbird feeders in the garden! This new style in gorgeous aqua or cobalt blue filigree with dripless gondola multi port nectar

stations is very popular. These pieces are absolutely radiant in the sunlight. This style will contain an ample supply of nectar to ensure happy hummingbirds as they migrate through to their winter homes.

SEPTEMBER 2009 TO DO LIST

- By the end of September, stop pruning and fertilizing so that there will be no new tender growth to be nipped by the first frost.
- Plant trees and shrubs, annuals and perennials.
- Divide, move, and/or share perennials; collect seeds.
- Start fall clean up in flower beds, cut back anything that has finished blooming or is diseased.
- Prepare to bring summer tropicals back indoors; check for hitchhiking pests. Repot.
- Take cuttings to root indoors.
- Photograph garden and containers to record the year's triumphs and frustrations.
- Turn the compost pile if you have one.
- Enrich garden beds with compost.
- At the end of the month, plant pansies and fall annuals (cabbage, kale, and dianthus).
- Re-edge beds with a clean, sharp edge.
- Keep pruning tools clean. One cut on a diseased branch can spread disease throughout your garden.
- Always clean tools before putting them away. Clean tools with linseed oil.
- Water trees and shrubs so they enter dormancy well hydrated.

THE 15 MINUTE GARDENER

If you feel as though you don't have enough time to garden, take advantage of any 15 minute free time



slot you find. Enjoy 15 minutes of solitude with a cup of coffee while you deadhead or weed a small area. If you do that once

or twice a day, your garden will look much better and you will feel less stressed and more accomplished. Sometimes the task doesn't even take the entire 15 minutes.

Another tip: mentally divide your garden into rooms or zones that can be groomed in one hour's time. Give yourself a goal of finishing each zone within the one hour time frame, and move on to the next. This will allow you to accomplish a great deal in the span of one day. The routine will eventually become an easy habit to adopt.

EXTERIOR DECORATING

Give yourself (or someone else) a garden retreat, or update an existing one. Wilshire Garden Market provides an exterior decorating consultation service. By appointment, for a nominal 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 details or to set up an appointment.



Let us help you create your outdoor living room!

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