

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

Winter 2012 Newsletter
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 Celebrating 15 Years

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 Established 1997

A BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING TO 2012

What a difference a year makes in the world of weather and gardening! At this time of year we're usually battling ice and/or snow; (knock on nearest wood) but at this writing temperatures are above average and people are wearing light sweaters. The New Year is full of promise and hope, as well as forecasts of trends.



A prominent forecast trend is *living color*. As on the fashion runway, gardens everywhere will feature color: neon



colors, pop art, and color blocking. We have noticed this in our new containers and in our outdoor pillow collections; they have been designed with color, color, and more color; each design inter-



faces with several color ways for greater versatility, making it much easier to segue from one color emphasis to another in outdoor areas. Watch for the trendy introduction of more amber and black plants.

Decorative containers, including repurposed items that were not designed to be containers, are becoming popular indoors and outside. For instance, the miniature cottages that we have featured in the past now have a smaller counterpart the "rooftop garden" cotta-



ge that has no roof; the entire cottage can be planted so the roof consists of dense flowers, ground cover, or succulents. Imagination and sense of your own style contribute to devising alternative containers; we have recently designed warehouse-chic metal table planters in various shapes, heights, and sizes.



Beauty and sustainability are very important in this year's gardens. Low maintenance plants in eye-catching containers are being featured in all national industry publications. Whether it is one durable focal point plant or a combination of plants in a beautiful container, they make a strong statement.

Speaking of sustainability, 2012 has been named *The Year of the Herb* by the National Garden Bureau. Herbs offer huge rewards and demand very little. Whether it is a spiral shaped pathway through an herb garden, a window planter filled with herbs, or simple containers that can become an above ground herb garden, they fill our lives with fragrance and our meals with fantastic flavors.



Succulents are as hot again this year as they were last year. A mass of jewel-like succulents in a color coordinated container is unbeatable beauty.

Miniature gardening will be a strong trend as well this year. Developed 30 years ago, a renewed miniature trend has swept across the country. Dwarf plants will landscape small European cottages and rustic gnome homes. New accessories will grace this year's miniature vignettes.



Accessories include diminutive arbors, gazebos with chandeliers, tiny cement tables with candelabras, teeny replicas of teak garden benches, bistro sets and birdbaths, even tiny bicycles propped against a very little garden gate.

Small fountains will be among trends in 2012. There are numerous styles to fit anyone's taste and décor from graceful and romantic to sleek contemporary styles. Their small size makes them adaptable to many locations.



Vertical gardening is a huge trend whether inside a hotel lobby or outdoors in a variety of forms from trellises to wall gardens. Ideal in narrow spaces, if you run out of horizontal space, garden up!

Old garden roses are in. Recently, British rose breeder David Austin has developed eight deeply perfumed roses with broad petals that will last for more than a week as cut flowers; worth the effort.



Here's to 2012 and all the good things it will bring!

WHAT'S NEW IN THE STORE



This spring's outdoor pillows are beautiful, darling, and well designed to integrate with existing color ways. The pillow artists have outdone themselves again. Our first shipments of 10 designs have already arrived.

Sunbrella fabric is very durable fabric used for most outdoor furniture cushions. This year's new fabric swatches and books are in, full of new colors (including pink!) and many attractive patterns. If you are considering having your outdoor furniture reupholstered, now is a good time to order the fabric and have it made so you can entertain leisurely when spring arrives.



Valentine flags such as this heart cookies flag have arrived, along with St. Patrick's Day flags, ready to bring instant seasonal color and cheer to your garden or entry.



They also make great gifts.

GARDENER VALENTINES

From garden to bath, what could be more thoughtful and generous than 100 gram heart shaped soaps in soft pastels, gently scented with lavender, French tulip, tea rose, some of nature's favorite fragrances? They smell heavenly, having just arrived for Valentine gift giving. They look lovely alone or resting in a color coordinated hand made ceramic soap dish created by Mike Paluska.



We love, love, love flour sack tea towels for their ability to dry glassware and silver without leaving streaks and lint, and they continue getting prettier and prettier. These are among the new Valentine and spring styles in stock now. They make great small, attractive and very useful gifts. Anyone, even if they have everything, will appreciate receiving and enjoy using these artfully designed tea towels.

FEBRUARY TO DO LIST

- Sow seeds of warm season vegetables and annuals indoors. Grow what are precious and that you will eat; get one indulgence for fun.
- Sow seeds of hardy spring annuals
- Plant cool season vegetable seedlings.
- Order summer bulbs: lilies, etc.
- Prune wisteria.



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.

PERENNIAL OF THE YEAR



Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost' or Heart Leaf Brunnera, is the 2012 pick of the Perennial Plant Association based on its exceedingly beautiful silvery foliage with light green veins resembling cracked porcelain and lovely blue flowers in the spring. The plants measure 12-15 inches high by 12-15 inches wide. Their shimmering silvery foliage will brighten any shade area, however Brunnera prefers rich, moist soil, so Oklahoma gardeners may want to try one or two to avoid potential disappointment. The Perennial Plant Association began their helpful practice of designating plants of the year in 1990.

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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