Gift Ideas for Your Favorite Gardener (published 2026-12-05)
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I'm writing this for my husband. Sometimes he needs help thinking of gifts for me. Then I thought, maybe some of you folks have a gardener and would like some ideas for presents. So, get your credit cards ready. You can find these items at local stores and online - easy peasy shopping.

When I started the list, I was just thinking of practical things. Then, my sense of humor steered me in another direction. Finally, one of my cohorts mentioned an odd term that sent me off in a third direction. Maybe some of these ideas will strike your fancies.

Practical

Tool apron, tote and bucket caddy: Schlepping tools around can be awkward and annoying. A tool apron is great when you need just 3 or 4 tools to do some weeding or trimming. I use mine to carry my pruners, weed digger, and small trowel. I use my tote to carry 8 or 9 tools, garbage bags, knee pads, and 2 spray bottles. It makes the bigger chores much more efficient. A gardening buddy of mine uses a bucket caddy. The bucket holds the weeds she pulls and her tools are right where she needs them.

Portable seat: If your knees are well used and not amenable to resting on them, a nice portable seat saves the day. One of the folks I work with uses a small plastic child chair that is so cute and colorful. But there are some other seats made for gardeners that can double as tool caddies. Save your knees and back with a comfy seat.

Personal Protection Garb: Good sturdy gloves, a wide brimmed hat and a shirt made of UPF 50 (ultraviolet protection factor) material can go a long way in making gardening safer. Gloves keep those thorns, rough surfaces and irritants away from your hands. I go through about 3 pairs of gloves every year. Hats with a wide brim keep the sun off your face and the back of your neck. UPF 50 shirts will also keep your arms and torso free from sunburn. I have several in all different colors and some also have long sleeves with slits that the thumb goes through. That way even my wrists are protected.

Ratchet loppers and pruners: I bought my first ratchet tools last year. What did I do without them! They make pruning a breeze!

Fun

My husband just shakes his head. I have wildly colorful socks that I wear with my also colorful rubber gardening shoes. How about a t-shirt that says: "You're never too old to play in the dirt"? A friend has a wall plaque that says: "Gardening, because murder is wrong". My brother sent me a mug that says: "Yes, I really DO need all these plants". There are loads of fun garden-themed items out there. If you're an internet shopper, just search for gifts for gardeners.

Unusual - Goofy Names of Useful Items

Dibbler: This is the term that set my curiosity on fire. It turns out that a dibbler is a great tool to help you plant seeds, small bulbs and seedlings at the correct depth. It's a t-shaped tool with a

tapered stick marked in inches and/or millimeters. It's not something people might buy for themselves, but what a cool gift!

Seed widger: This is another oldie but goodie. It's intended for moving and planting seedlings. A thin, curved blade with a handle lets you scoop soil and roots gently. Some have markings in inches and/or millimeters to also help plant the seedlings.

Hori Hori garden knife: It's the Swiss army knife of gardening. It looks like a spade except one edge is a very sharp knife, the other edge is a saw. You can dig, cut, saw, split, and weed with it. Be careful! The knife edge is very sharp! One very experienced gardener that I know cut himself rather badly with it.

Flower frogs (aka pin frogs and kenzans): This is pretty nifty. It is another device from years gone by to hold stems in place for stable flower arranging. The old ones are sought-after by collectors. But there are new ones, too. You'll find metal, glass and ceramic frogs out there. It is unclear why they are called frogs because they aren't usually in the shape of a frog.

There are many more gift-worthy gardening items out there. Hopefully, you now have a good start to find something special for your favorite gardener.

How do I ask a question?
If you have questions for the Master Gardeners, submit them to us on our website at www.netmga.net. Click the link at the top of the page, "ASK A MASTER GARDENER" to send in your question. Questions that are not answered in this column will receive a response from a Master Gardener to the contact information you provide.