



Holiday Gifts for the Gardener

by Penye Cushing, UCCE Master Gardener

DEAR SANTA:

I've been really good this year. So, I thought I would help you with a few hints of what I'd really love to have. I get so much joy from my garden and all the beauty it brings...and I am so easy to please, really!!

Let's start with tools that would help me work smarter.

- Bypass shears (built for smaller hands if needed).
- A new large water bottle that keeps drinks extra cold.
- Tough gloves with a gauntlet for pruning and trimming prickly plants. These would be very helpful and protect my arms from thorns.
- Garden cart with pneumatic tires to haul anything and everything. Drop-down sides would be special! And could you paint it red, Santa dear?
- Ratchet style orthopedically-designed clippers for tired hands to work a little longer dead-heading.
- Trug of any size and color! Love these carry-all's to haul all my stuff around or fill with waste. So perfect!
- Clog-free rake with closed plastic tines. These beauties work hard with no more jammed tines during yard chores.
- Bucket with outside apron to hold all my necessities. This allows me to keep all my stuff together. I get so tired of running back to get something I need/forgot.



How about material to improve our soil and preserve moisture?

- Truck load of compost or mulch – really!!
- Sacks of potting soil, or a gift certificate to use when I need garden supplies.

Ideas for adding a special personal touch to the yard both day and night are fun.

- Solar lights that can be planted, hung or stuck up on a wall. So many designs available, even ones that change colors.
- Stepping stones with designs on them. And maybe a helping hand to place them.
- Stone lantern to enhance a beauty spot.
- Deep-tone wind chimes can be so Zen, and the neighbors will love them, too.
- Plant stand on wheels for mobility.

Something to help us get through the cold, dark days of January like:

- Summer-blooming bulbs, such as gladioli, calla lilies, dahlias, tuberous begonias, and crocosmias, for planting after the holidays have passed.
- Books!!! On butterflies and birds. Stories of nature. Gardens around the world. Gardens with specific themes.
- Feeders for hummingbirds/larger seed eaters/squirrels, too. Don't forget a supply of feed to complement your thoughtfulness.



There, did that help? I know how busy you are these days. This list should be helpful for whatever your budget is this year. Made you some zucchini bread for your journey.

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