

Gifts for Gardeners



Photo special to the Democrat: An amaryllis can be a prized gift for the gardener on your list.

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“All through the long winter, I dream of my garden. On the first day of spring, I dig my fingers deep into the soft earth. I can feel its energy, and my spirits soar.” - Helen Hayes

Do you have a gardener on your holiday gift list? Shopping for gardeners is easy. Choose anything from a good, sturdy tool to a plant that can transition from holiday décor to outdoor accent. Garden-related gifts like wind-chimes, bird baths and statuary can be whimsical, fun and artistic. Practical items like totes, gardening boots and books about the garden are always appreciated. However, when avid gardeners are asked what their favorite gifts are, the tried-and-true classics win every time; some of the following should please any plant enthusiast.

Tools. Any gardener would appreciate being gifted with a quality tool. Pruners, nippers, trowels, diggers and sprayers are a few ideas. Keep in mind the best hand tools are formed out of one piece of heavy rust-proof metal and have a good grip. A great spade is one tool that you can easily invest some cash in, but is worth its weight in gold as it should last for a lifetime of gardening. Dealing with a yard full of leaves is still a necessity for most of us this time of year, and in spite of the popularity of blowers, a good

old-fashioned steel-tined leaf rake is a must-have for anyone who enjoys working in the yard.

Gloves and Hats. Most avid gardeners like to have several different types of gardening gloves, including at least one pair of general purpose, as well as some water-proof and heavy-duty puncture resistant ones. Gardening in the hot Florida sun practically requires a hat for shading the face and neck. These come in a wide array of styles and materials and can be an inexpensive but valuable gift for anyone who spends time in the yard

Bulbs. How about flower bulbs for the gardener in your life? Some of the more exotic and unusual bulbs are a splurge for many gardeners, and so these are a welcomed gift. Consider amaryllis bulbs, which do well in our area and come in lovely hues from white to deep red as well as some eye-catching striped varieties. Or you can give a bag of daylily bulbs to the garden-lover to create a naturalized grouping.

Pots. One unique, colorful pot can do so much when used the right way in the garden or to showcase plants where there is no soil, like on a deck or patio. Containers filled with colorful plants can be placed in flower beds or borders to become sculptural accents. Smaller pots that have different heights, textures and colors can be grouped together for a great impact. Any gardener would be happy to get one great pot or a group of several.

Christmas Plant. Small junipers and hollies make cute table-top Christmas trees. 'Blue Point' junipers have a conical shape and bluish tint and can be gifted in a colorful pot to be enjoyed indoors for the holidays and then planted outside for a nice focal point. The goshiki false holly's new leaves are pink and quickly turn green with speckles of cream, gold and grey. This colorful little shrub will brighten up any room for the holidays and then make an eye-catching accent plant in the garden. The aromatic herb rosemary, trimmed in the shape of a Christmas tree, is perfect for enjoying indoors and then planting in a sunny location when the weather turns warm. A gift of rosemary would especially delight a gardener who also likes to cook.

Finally, if you are ever in doubt about what to buy for a gardener or are doing some last-minute shopping, you can never go wrong with a gift certificate to a local nursery or garden center.

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