

Slug: Ask the Master Gardener  
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After polling fellow WSU Master Gardeners, here is a list of gifts for those who have loved ones that are gardeners. HINT: this list can be kept and used throughout the year, but it may be most appropriate at this time of year. You may be thinking “my loved one has every gadget known to man for gardening”, but you would be wrong. Well, maybe not wrong, just misinformed. All gardeners wear out their gloves, tools, clogs, hats, etc. Those are in need of regular replacement. So be sure to keep a close eye on your favorite gardener’s wardrobe.

Here are the top 10 choices:

1. Tools. Pruners, loppers, saws, quality hand spades, hula hoes, collapsible rakes, and weeding tools. Some have favorite brands, so do a little investigative work – WSU does not recommend any particular brand.
2. Garden Books. Like the WSU/OSU PNW Weed, Disease, and Insect Management Handbooks, other WSU gardening books available at <http://pubs.wsu.edu/> or any gardening book of any kind!
3. Garden Art. These, of course, are very gardener specific. Might be best to do a gift certificate at a wonderful nursery. Again, you may have to do some detective work to find out their favorite one.
4. Garden Gloves. These preferences ranged from goat leather gloves, to other special types available locally. It wouldn’t be hard to figure out just which kind your gardener prefers, or use this opportunity to splurge on some really nice ones and spoil your gardener. Don’t forget the rose pruning gloves, too!
5. Knee Pads. These can range from the standard ones that strap onto the knee, but there is also the cushioned kneeling bench, the cushioned kneeling pad or cart with seat.
6. Compost/Mulch *and* someone to spread it. The operative word here is *and*. One could write a “coupon” and stick it in a stocking or.....? To be claimed in the spring.
7. Muscle. Pretty self-explanatory. Every gardener needs muscles (other than his/her own) in the fall and in the spring. Another coupon, perhaps?
8. This one consists of several items. Bucket/tool holder combo, beautiful pots for deck or patio, and gift certificates at wonderful nurseries, or home improvement stores.
9. Gardening hats, wind chimes, and gardening clogs.
10. Greenhouse.

Now, if you were feeling extra magnanimous this year, you could go hog wild and plan a trip to ... the gardens in the South of France, or Sicily, or, well you get the picture.

One last suggestion. If your gardener is “into” vintage garden collectibles, search the Internet for websites for trellis’, garden collectibles, etc.

Happy Shopping!

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This column is written by Washington State University/Skagit County certified Master Gardeners. Questions may be submitted to WSU/Skagit County Extension, 306 S. First Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98273-3805.

