

Bell County Master Gardener
Tip of the Week
By Mary Lew Quesinberry
“Gifts for the Gardener”

Gardeners on your Christmas gift list can be hard to buy for because there are so many gardening things to choose from. Consider compiling a gift basket containing personal items such as a heavy-duty apron, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and lotion. Add some seed packets or bulbs to the basket and a pair of gloves. There is a varied selection of gloves to choose from. Sturdy gloves are a must when tending to roses and other thorny plants; there are also gloves made for wet conditions, and some for normal use. A gardener cannot have too many pairs of gloves!

Ergonomic tools such as hand clippers and gardening trowels are very helpful for persons with arthritic conditions. Kneepads, a kneeling pad, rolling benches, carts and wagons are appreciated gifts and can make time spent in the garden more comfortable.

Chose a gift for your gardener friend’s visiting wildlife such a birdhouse, bird feeder, or birdbath. Other prized gifts could be wind chimes, statuary, fountains, plaques, ornamental pots, patio furniture, gazing balls, a hammock or a chiminea to burn the wonderfully scented New Mexican pinon wood.

Amaryllis, Christmas cactus, and Poinsettia all have long lasting blooms that come in many colors and make beautiful gifts. A living Christmas tree or a Rosemary topiary that can be added to the landscape after the holidays is another gift idea.

Select gardening and landscape books are specific to Central Texas or a book that specializes in a plant favored by the gardener such as orchids or African Violets. You might also consider a gift certificate for the gardener who has everything, or even a personal gift certificate to do chores in your gardening friend’s landscape.

Have any questions about gardening in Central Texas? Contact ask.bcmga@gmail.com

In the photo: Gazing balls are among the many gardening items available as gifts for the gardener on your Christmas gift list.

