

Christmas Presents for Gardeners

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If the person on your Christmas gift list is a gardener, it is relatively easy to select a gift for them. Here are some simple and more involved gift suggestions for you to consider.

Among the best gifts for gardeners are gardening books. For the individual who has moved into a different home and is planning a new or changing a landscape "Home Landscaping Texas" by Greg Grant and Roger Holmes is an excellent choice. The authors base their recommendations on portions of the landscape such as the front entrance, the steep side slope, and the shady corner. The writing and photographs are excellent and Greg Grant's plant knowledge is unmatched. The gift might also include the participation fee (\$30) to attend the next SAWS/ Trinity Glen Rose sponsored Landscape Design School. Visit the Gardeningvolunteers.org website for times and locations.

Other great books to consider are "Native Texas Plants" by Sally Wasowski, "Attracting Birds to Southern Gardens" by Pope, Odenwald, and Fryling, Butterfly Gardening for the South by Geyata Ajilvsgi, and "Perennial Garden Color" by William C. Welch.

Is there an older gardener on your gift list that is faced with decisions about the his or her future gardening effort? For a stocking stuffer give them the book "The Lifelong Gardener" by Toni Gattone. Its subtitle is "Garden with Ease & Joy at Any Age". The book will help the older gardener match her physical abilities with her gardening interests. For a more elaborate gift, work out with them a gift of a raised bed garden that makes it possible to grow their favorite vegetables, herbs, or flowers. The project could include the grandchildren in its planning and construction.

Another neat gift is to encourage the newly retired gardener on your gift list to join the Gardening Volunteers of South Texas. To make the gift even more special, take time off work to attend one of the monthly Essentials of Gardening Classes (third Monday every month from noon to 3PM at the SA Garden Center) with them. Identify one of the short term or ongoing projects that you will participate with the person on your gift list. The goal of your gift will be to get them more involved in the GVST environmental and gardening projects with the result they will have fun, meet new friends, learn more horticulture, and contribute to important community efforts.

Area retail nurseries have a long list of neat gifts including plants and gardening tools, but my favorite gift to recommend for the gardener from a nursery is a gift certificate. You may say that a gift certificate is an easy gift to provide, which is true, but it is also a high impact, thoughtful gift. If you select the gardener's favorite nursery that indicates that you are involved enough to know it. The gift certificate also is appreciated by the gardener because prior to cashing it in he/she gets to visit the nursery, an enjoyable activity for most gardeners. The gifted gardener also can use the G.C. to purchase plants or supplies where timing is important. Selecting a fragrant rose or satsuma tree when you have plenty of time to plant it makes the gift even more appreciated.

Is the gardener on your gift list fighting a battle with squirrels over the seed in her/his bird feeders? Help solve the conflict by providing an Absolute Steel Feeder with weight sensitive perches as the

Christmas present. Offer more aide by including some pepper flavored suet blocks and safflower seed as part of the gift.