

HOME, LAWN & GARDEN

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Start the season off right with great gift ideas for your green thumb friends

Almost every one of us knows someone who loves to work in the garden. But buying gifts for gardeners can be difficult, especially if you're not as horticulturally-inclined as they are. Here are some suggestions that can make any serious gardener happy:

Tools and gadgets

If it looks like their spades have seen better days, get them a new set of tools. If you aren't sure, have someone at the store help you choose the most useful items. Also, kits that help test the soil, meters that help measure soil moisture and other gadgets that make gardening chores easier or more comfortable (think kneeling pads and good gloves) will surely please any avid gardener.

Decorations

Every garden needs a few quirky yard decorations. If the gardener in your life has a sense of humour, consider a decoration which reflects that personality trait. Buy decorations made for outdoor use and designed to blend in with different garden themes. A hummingbird feeder is another popular item that all gardeners can appreciate. Hummingbird feeders are filled with a sugary liquid that keeps these beautiful birds coming back for more.

Think outside the box

If you find it hard to uncover a special something for the gardener in your life who seems to already have everything under the sun, consider a gift certificate from their favourite supplier or a local botanical garden.

Did you know that you can also purchase garden essentials through a non-profit organization like Christian Children's Fund of Canada? A donation, on behalf of the gardener in your life, will help equip families living in extreme poverty with tools to grow nutritious fruits and vegetables that can be sold to provide a source of income. It makes an excellent gift and can help save lives. Information on this is available online at www.cfccanada.ca.

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