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By SEAN JAMES, N.P.D.,
PRESIDENT OF FERN RIDGE LANDSCAPING

Gifting...



PHOTO BY SEAN JAMES

One of the nicest things about gardeners is how easy we are to shop for. Birthdays, Christmas - pick a holiday, if it goes in the garden we're pretty happy.

Obviously, plants are usually a good choice. If it's around Christmas time, pick a foliage plant so that it will tolerate more shade in the house. The more shade tolerant the better since shade tolerance equals versatility when trying to find a place for it. You could get them a nice, large, artful pot. If you really like them, pick up a plant AND a suitable pot. It makes me happy to see the tremendous variety available today from all corners of the globe.

Speaking of all corners of the globe, '10,000 Villages' in Oakville on Lakeshore Road usually has some nifty giftys. Statuary or sculpture is often a good choice and since their goods come from all over the planet and have a 'conscience' they make ideal options. If it's for the outside, either ensure that the finish will weather well or, in the case of things like clay pots, make sure the giftee knows to bring it in for winter.

'Grasshopper' on Hwy 6 in Flamborough has some goodies I love. I bought a 6' tall wooden giraffe there a couple of years ago. I lacquered it to

death so I could put him outside in the summer although I still bring him in for winter. Since most of the goods there come from the South, they often need to be brought indoors for winter.

Milton Country Depot has developed a really nice selection of garden sculpture, potting soil and pots as well as bird feeders and seed. (Two birds - one stone...Birders AND Gardeners!) They often have some interesting tropicals as well.

Taylor Nurseries, (pictured), is one of my favourite gifting shops. I rarely get away without buying some nickknackery for myself. One winter I did most of my Christmas gifting at Taylor's. Some great examples are garden lanterns, miniature indoor water gardens, great hanging art, (I just bought an amazing dragon), as well as fertilizers, gloves and tools. Tools are often a great choice.

Terra Nurseries have great pots and some lovely tropical plants as well as some interesting seeds.

An important bit of info - generally, stay away from garden gnomes - it's a cliché joke thingy. My garden already has two gnomes. Two is plenty! Happy shopping and try not to buy too much for yourself. Do as I say not as I do.



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Sean James N.P.D.