

# In the Garden

## Adventures with hoses



Is spring here yet? Did you get everything tidied up in the fall? You are all prepared ready and to go—right? Oh dear, you never got around to the big fall tidy up. Let's face it, there were demanding birds needing their feeders filled, hoses to disconnect, spray nozzles to unscrew and store, and so many tools to maintain AND only the birds got fed.

This year I absolutely promised someone that I would remove the nozzles, drain the hoses, and turn the water off to the outside taps. Every year I promise this. Something always distracts me and I forget. So today with the promise of growing weather around the corner we clean up the garden like we should have in November. First it's the hoses. I watch as someone who has turned the water on presses the hose nozzle for the first time in 2019. The nozzle cracks shooting a massive jet of freezing water into someone's crotch. I find this hugely amusing but, as you can imagine, someone is a whole lot less amused.

I also have a scarecrow motion activated nozzle that is a fabulous deer deterrent. It detects the deer and shoots a big blast of water at them. The deer fly off in all directions!

Also very amusing. It works well on annoying neighbors, dogs, cats, and door-to-door visitors.

So every year we trek to the hardware store and buy new nozzles. The first thing to consider when buying a hose nozzle is the material it is made out of. Brass, zinc, or aluminum are the best materials for hose nozzles and will last much longer than plastic. There are two major parts of a nozzle — the sprayer and the handle. Depending on the price and brand, these can be made from many different materials. Most are made from metal, plastic, or a combination. Then you have to choose between pistol grips, dial nozzles, water wands, fan nozzles, fireman's nozzles, traditional nozzles, and bubble nozzles.

Complicated? Well, how about a simpler less accurate guide to new nozzles:

**Pistol grips** - best used in Arizona with the required permits

**Dial nozzles** - nozzles with soap, used for cleaning cars

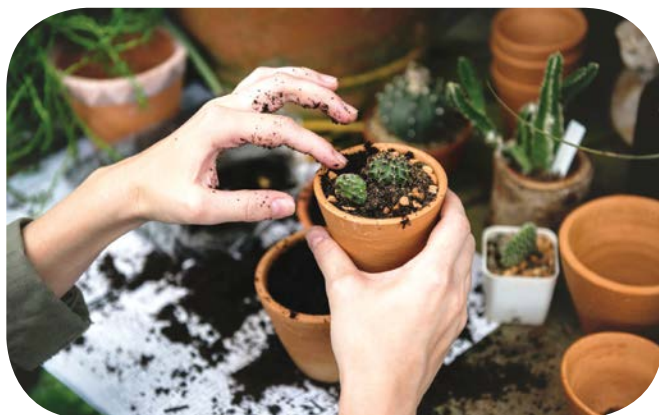
**Water wands** - used by wizards

**Fan nozzle** - beloved of geishas

**Fireman's nozzles** - comes with a complementary calendar, oh my!

**Traditional nozzles** - yawn

And finally, **Bubble nozzles** - useful for outdoor shampooing, comes in different scents and colours!



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