



Riverview Garden Club Helpful Hints



December 2018

The holidays are right around the corner. December is filled with many activities involving family, traditions, gift giving, and of course, eating. Be gentle on yourself for this month. In January we all can get back into our normal routines. Let's think about some nifty gardening gifts that will be appreciated by anyone that digs in the "dirt".

Gardening gloves is a basic that will be appreciated by any gardener if they are the right fit. Buy a durable pair that is not too bulky and fit the hands of the receiver.

Hand pruners help reign in plants that are getting out of control. The increased strength provided with ratcheting pruners makes them a great choice for anyone with reduced hand strength or arthritis.

Hand trowels are great for planting herbs, digging around corners, or taking out weeds. Buy a trowel that was forged from stainless steel or at least a stainless steel head for durability and longevity.

A short-handled square shovel will make easy work digging holes for plants or moving small amounts of soil. Consider a spade with a strong steel head and a thick fiberglass handle. This can be a little bit pricy, but the receiver will appreciate its quality.

When cleaning leaves and debris, a sturdy inexpensive plastic rake will do the job quickly and will not put a large dent in your budget.

The type of garden this gift will see will depend on what type of hoe you should buy for your gift giving. A vegetable garden will

require a sturdy, wide hoe. A perennial garden would be better with a thinner hoe. This type will not disturb roots as easily.

A long hose with an adjustable nozzle will certainly be appreciated by someone who does not have an irrigation system. Consider the size garden your recipient has, and with an adjustable nozzle will allow control of the water pressure and spray radius.

Giving a watering wand will allow a gentle rain shower to reach out of the way containers at the back edges of a garden or border.

The essential tool that should be in everyone's shed is a pair of loppers. Buy a quality pair that will remove branches up to a two inch diameter.

If your budget allows, buy a wheelbarrow as all gardeners need one at times. It can be used for moving soil, compost, or trimmings from trees, bushes, etc. A two-handed wheelbarrow runs about \$80, and can haul hundreds of pounds.

Any one or a combination of these items will be appreciated by any gardener, especially a new one just moving into their first home.



--Sandy