



Buy Side from WSJ is a reviews and recommendations team, independent of The Wall Street Journal newsroom. We might earn a commission from links in this content. [Learn more.](#)

GIFTS

[Advertiser Disclosure](#)

20 Foolproof Gifts for Gardeners, According to Experts

From garden tools to apparel, here are the best gifts for the plant-lovers in your life

BUY SIDE GIFT GUIDE



From a pair of statement-making clogs to a luxe watering can, these gifts will please the avid gardener in your life. PHOTO: Jeff Westbrook for Buy Side from WSJ. STYLING: Miako Kato for Buy Side from WSJ.

Nov. 11, 2022 at 1:27 pm ET

By *Ebony Roberts*



SHARE

More people are transforming into budding green thumbs through **small flower gardens** tucked on our apartment balconies or **outdoor landscapes transformed into naturalistic sanctuaries** for birds and bees, thanks in part to the pandemic. No matter how your gift recipient digs in the dirt, “having the right tool makes all the difference,” says Joe Lamp’l, aka **Joe Gardener**, host of the PBS show “**Growing a Greener World**,” an eponymous podcast, and author of “**The Vegetable Gardening Book**.” We spoke with Lamp’l and four other gardening

experts to discover their favorite gardening tools. These are the 20 they use, love and gift to their own friends and family.

Replaceable-blade pruners

FELCO 6

Hand Shears

\$55 AT AMAZON

~~\$60~~ Save \$5



A bypass pruner is one of the most helpful gardening tools, used for everything from deadheading flowers, cutting smaller branches and harvesting fruit from the vine. Author of “**The Weekly Dirt**” newsletter **Jessica Damiano** recommends **the Felco #6 pruners**, which have been her favorite pair for as long as she can remember because of their ergonomic design and smaller size. “They’re Swiss-made, so there’s good precision,” says Damiano, garden columnist at the Associated Press. “They fit my hand well, and they’re very comfortable. I haven’t had to replace or sharpen the blades in a decade.”

Convenient carrying basket

GARDENERS

Garden Hods

GARDEN HODS

\$55 AT GARDENERS



A gathering basket for fruits, vegetables and cut flowers makes it easy for your favorite gardener to bring their bounty indoors. **Melinda Myers**, national gardening expert, author of gardening books, and host of The Great Courses “**How to Grow Anything**” video series, says a garden hod is one of her favorite harvest devices. She’s picked up several in her more than 30 years of horticulture experience, but her New England-made **Gardener’s Supply hod** has lasted for over 20 years. The wood is sturdy and food-grade vinyl coated mesh won’t rust, “and they’re easy to handle whether you’re walking or you have a wheelbarrow.”

Display-worthy watering can

HAWS

Traditional Watering Can



\$168 AT TERRAIN

Anything that holds water can be used to quench your giftee’s plant’s thirst, but **the Haws watering can** is both gorgeous and pragmatic in its design, and recommended by several experts we spoke with. Hand-crafted in England since 1886, each Haws takes over 200 steps to construct and is durably made to last a lifetime, if not longer. “You can’t beat a British gardening tool,” says Lamp’l, who uses **the classic green two-gallon can** for both his indoor and outdoor plants. The long diagonal spout provides greater reach into garden beds, and the interchangeable brass roses (the end sprinkler attachments) allow for customized water pressure from a fine mist to heavier shower. “It’s so balanced, it’s ridiculous,” he adds, “And it’s painted galvanized steel, so it lasts a really long time.”

Time-perfected shovel



FISKARS

PRO Shovel

\$49 AT WALMART

\$66 AT AMAZON

A small pointed shovel is an essential tool for new gardeners, says Marcus Bridgewater, author of “**How to Grow: Nurture Your Garden. Nurture Yourself**”

and the man behind **Garden Marcus**, one of the most-followed gardening accounts on TikTok. “The ability to dig into the soil or turn the soil in the planter is easier when you have the leverage of [a shovel] in your hand.” Bridgewater recommends **a Fiskers digging shovel** because of the quality construction and handling ease. “They allow you to do your job with the most amount of efficiency, and that’s going to save you time and increase the result.” This D-handle shovel has a contoured shape that’s comfortable to hold for extended periods, large foot pads and sharpened blade edge for slicing through roots.

Multipurpose digging tool



BAREBONES

Hori Hori Classic

\$55 AT BAREBONES

Experts told us that **a hori hori knife**—also known as a weeding or soil knife—is one of the most useful multipurpose tools to own and to gift. Nicole Burke, author of “**Kitchen Garden Revival**” and founder of **Gardenary**, recommends the beautiful walnut-handled stainless steel Barebones hori hori. “I love that it’s three tools in one,” she says. “You can dig with it, measure depth on the shovel, and the sharp serrated edge is awesome for cutting twine and pulling off unhealthy stems.” She adds that it’s “perfect for a raised bed kitchen garden because it’s so small, and I

can do almost all the planting I need to with [it].”

Wheelbarrow alternative



GORILLA CARTS

Poly Garden Dump Cart

\$130 AT THE HOME DEPOT

\$160 AT AMAZON
~~\$210~~ Save \$50

Trading in a cumbersome wheelbarrow for a four-wheeled dump cart is an upgrade any gardener will appreciate. Damiano switched to an easier-to-use **Gorilla Cart** for gardening and yard work because of its steady design, comfortable handle and swivel pneumatic tires that can change directions easily. There are a variety of sizes, but Damiano finds the 4 cubic foot-capacity the most handy, using it to transport mulch, compost, plant pots and tools around her property. “Unlike a regular cart, it’s got a lift dumping system, so you lift up the bed and just dump.” When it needs cleaning, it’s as simple as a hose down.

Protective gloves

FOX GLOVES



Long Gardening Gloves

\$32 AT FOX GLOVES

“Foxgloves are wonderful,” says Myers, “Especially for people with sensitive skin, whether it’s to the sunlight or plant reactions. A lot of medical groups have endorsed **Foxgloves** for that reason.” The tight-knit cloth gloves fit like a second skin, keeping hands and fingernails clean, and while wearing an elbow-length pair might look like **gardening in opera gloves**, the added length offers more sun protection and lets you reach deeper into bushes. They’re available in an all-over smooth version, but the raised silicone dot pattern on the palm and fingers adds grip when using tools and pulling weeds.

Easy planter boxes



EARTH BOX

Gardening System

\$39 AT EARTH BOX



“I don’t have a huge backyard, so I try to make use of every square inch that I can,” says Damiano, who has used the same two Earthboxes for over a decade to supplement her growing space. One of the biggest advantages of **these planter boxes** is the built-in watering system that makes gardening almost maintenance-free, helping to prevent mold and fungal disease and reducing watering to a less-than-weekly task. Earthboxes come in various colors, and the company offers the option to add custom-fit castors for more effortless mobility.

Precise pruner

NIWAKI

GR Pro Snips

\$82 AT NIWAKI



“My favorite hand tool is a needle nose pruner,” says Burke, who uses the **Niwaki Pro Snips** for delicate, intricate work. “I use them almost every day in the garden, either for harvesting or keeping the beds clean of debris.” Burke is known for

growing tomatoes on an arched trellis. and using the Niwaki pruners allows her to

prune the plants to grow up and produce more fruit than leaves. Hand-forged in Japan from carbon steel, they feature a hardy spring that makes repeated cutting easier. There are less-expensive options, but the Nikwaki snips are for the person that “collects garden tools over shoes,” says Burke.

Versatile tote



VEGO

Garden Bag

\$120 AT VEGO

Vego is most known for their raised and rolling garden beds, and the same craftsmanship carries over into their other garden accessories, including **their garden bag**. What makes it unique “is the quality of the material it’s made of and how [many ways] you can use it in your garden,” says Bridgewater. “Even just as a carrying bag, it’s pretty impressive.” Ample tool holsters, built-in hanging hooks, a waterproof pocket and folding magnetic cup holders are just some characteristics of this feature-packed five-gallon tote. One of the most exceptional traits: A waterproof liner and bottom handle transform the bag into a functional watering can.

Recycled irrigation



PLANT NANNY

4 Count Wine Bottle Stake Set

\$20 AT AMAZON

~~\$23~~ Save \$3

A Plant Nanny is a terracotta holder for a long-neck glass bottle that makes watering plants less time-consuming. You stake them in a pot, insert a bottle of water and the porous clay soaks in the moisture and redistributes it to dry soil only as needed, extending the time between waterings by up to a week or more. Myers likes to pair the gift of a Plant Nanny with a good bottle of wine. “Then they can drink the wine and use the bottle, which looks so pretty” sitting in the nanny.” Not only do the bottle holders simplify indoor plant care, but they’re especially useful at helping outdoor plants thrive through the hottest part of the summer.

Scratch-resistant sleeves



FARMERS DEFENSE

Farmers Sleeves -

Monarch



IVONAATCH

**\$27 AT FARMERS
DEFENSE**

Any gardener working around plants with jagged leaves or thorny stems knows how easy it is to get cut, scratched or exposed to skin irritants. “**Farmers Sleeves** take that risk right off the table,” says Lamp’l, who uses the elbow-length arm protectors when working with okra, raspberries, blueberries, watermelons, squash, roses and other hard-to-touch plants. Your recipient will be able to reach deep into those plants that they were never able to before because they cut their arms up, “and just go at it.” he says. The stretch-polyester sleeves are primarily made of **recycled fiber**, are washable, durable, come in cool patterns and have a UPF 50+ rating, which helps to stave off sunburns on those hot harvest days.

Easy seed starter



TERRAIN

**Sneeboer Stainless
Steel Seedling Dibber**

\$34 AT TERRAIN

**\$34 AT
ANTHROPOLOGIE**

The appeal of a dibber is that you don't have to dig. "You push straight down, then as you pull it out, you push the seed right there and you're done," says Burke, who uses **the planting tool** to create holes for everything from larger bulbs like garlic and tulips to tiny radish and lettuce seeds. Sneeboer has been hand-forging stainless steel gardening tools for over 100 years, and each dibber is shaped, sharpened and polished in the Netherlands and comes with a lifetime guarantee.

Do-everything tub



RED GORILLA

Large Gorilla Tub® 10 gal

\$19 AT RED GORILLA

A flexible **Gorilla Tub** is one of the most versatile items to have around the yard. Lamp'l uses them for everything from weeding to raking leaves to transporting mulch to mixing organic fertilizer. "They're indestructible, lightweight, super strong, always hold their shape and they're stackable," says Lamp'l.

Comfortable clogs

BIRKENSTOCK

Super-Birki



**\$80 AT
BIRKENSTOCK**

Birkenstocks have always had a **loyal following**, but clogs, in particular, are **having a moment**. **The polyurethane Super-Birkis** are the footwear of choice for many gardeners. “I’ve had mine going on 15 years now, and they’re still my go-to,” says Damiano. “They’re easy to slip on and off because there’s no back, so you can just step into them if your hands are full.” The Birki’s support allows people to garden longer without feeling fatigued, and they only get more comfortable over time as the cork footbed molds to the foot. Damiano also likes that they clean up easily: “I can hose them off and leave them out on the deck to dry.”

Improved hose



WATER RIGHT

600 Series

Polyurethane Garden
Hose



\$190 AT AMAZON

~~\$252~~ Save \$62

Most generic rubber hoses aren't food grade and lack high-quality metal fittings, says Lamp'l, who has swapped all his out for **Water Right's drinking water safe polyurethane garden hoses** that don't kink, crack or leak. He calls Water Right hoses "a cut above the hoses that you see in big box stores," with excellent recoil memory and options that aren't typically offered in most standard garden hoses, like different diameter sizes and color choices like eggplant, olive and copper. "These kinds of differences stand out for people who are serious about their gardening and want to have high-quality tools."

Indoor composting



BROTHERS WORM FARM

Compost Bin

\$214 AT AMAZON

Worm composting is an excellent way to support garden health. and it doesn't take

much to get started. For apartment dwellers who may not have a lot of outdoor space, a small in-home worm bin is all you need to turn kitchen scraps into nutrient-rich compost for containers and transplants, says Myers. **The Urbalive worm farm** has stylish kitchen appeal, looking more like a piece of furniture and less like a plastic red wiggler habitat. The bin has stackable trays for rotating compost, a base that collects compost tea and a spout to access the liquid fertilizer without spilling. Not only will your recipient get better plant growth and higher yield from your home-grown soil amendment, but raising worms is also a fascinating endeavor. “I have grandkids, and every time they visit, they want to see the worms,” says Myers, “It’s a fun family activity.”

Sun-beating shirt



REI

Long-Sleeve T-Shirt -
Men's

\$35 AT REI

“Being out in the sun can be incredibly draining,” says Bridgewater, which is why he recommends sun-protective clothing for gardening outdoors. “I wear REI gear in the yard—it’s worth the investment because I love my garden and I spend all my time out there,” he says. Bridgewater likes that the moisture-wicking, long-sleeve **REI Co-op Sahara sun shirt** is made of UV protective material to avoid sunburns.

and it's lightweight enough for coolness: "I feel the difference on my skin."

Premium salad spinner



WILLIAMS SONOMA

Stainless-Steel Salad Spinner

**\$70 AT WILLIAMS
SONOMA**

When you have a kitchen garden closely connected to the home, like Burke's, an item that functions well in both spaces makes for a practical gift. **The Williams Sonoma stainless steel salad spinner** looks more sophisticated on a kitchen counter than a typical run-of-the-mill plastic one. It makes washing greens easy, but it's also helpful in harvesting them properly, says Burke, who uses hers to remove field heat from her freshly gathered produce. She tosses her haul in the stainless steel spinner and adds ice to the base to swiftly bring the temperature down, ensuring the produce stays crisp and lasts longer.

Tomato cages that last



TOMATO CAGES



4 Large 24" Diameter Cages

**\$159 AT TOMATO
CAGES**

Tomato cages made of plastic or flimsy wire don't last and often aren't tall enough, but **Texas Tomato Cages** can withstand almost anything, says Damiano. "During tropical storm Isaias, which knocked down our power for 10 days, these tomato cages were outside, and they didn't even budge—they were straight and standing tall." Damiano hosted the Great Long Island Tomato Challenge for 13 years and says the cages were "a total game changer for me." They're wide, sturdy, don't rust, and are so durable that she plans to leave them to her kids.

Shop more Buy Side from WSJ gift guides:

- **[12 Best BBQ Gifts for Grillers](#)**
- **[10 Best Gifts for Coffee Lovers](#)**
- **[12 Best Gifts for Book Lovers](#)**

The advice, recommendations or rankings expressed in this article are those of the Buy Side from WSJ editorial team, and have not been reviewed or endorsed by our commercial partners.

WHAT TO READ NEXT

GIFTS

13 Stocking Stuffers for Grown-Ups That Are Fun and Useful

UPDATED NOV 11, 2022

By Erica Finamore

Because you can do better than candy canes

GIFTS

11 Unique Gifts for Women Who Have Everything

UPDATED OCT 3, 2022

By Sarah Grossbart

These tastemaker-approved picks will save you from wrapping up yet another gift card

GIFTS

15 of the Best Gifts for Babies, According to Parenting Pros

UPDATED NOV 6, 2022

By Taryn Mohrman

Keep little ones busy with these fun finds.

Let's Make Shopping for Quality Products Easier

Sign up for our Buy Side from WSJ newsletter here.

SUBSCRIBE

Follow Us



[WSJ.COM](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

[CONTACT](#)

[JOBS](#)

[ADVERTISING](#)

[PARTNER WITH US](#)

[REPRINTS & LICENSING](#)

Dow Jones Products

[Barron's](#)

[BigCharts](#)

[Dow Jones Newswires](#)

[Factiva](#)

[Financial News](#)

[Mansion Global](#)

[MarketWatch](#)

[Risk & Compliance](#)

[WSJ Pro](#)

[WSJ Video](#)

[WSJ Wine](#)

[WSJ Membership Benefits](#)

Customer Center

Legal Policies

Copyright ©2022 Dow Jones & Company, Inc.
All Rights Reserved.