

Garden Gifts and Other Green Gift Ideas

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Wisconsin Public Radio -- Larry Meiller's "Garden Talk" 12/15/06

Under \$5

Seeds of plants you like, such as disease resistant pumpkins or heirloom squash
Reused ice bucket for kitchen compost container
Orchard mason bee house (make one or buy one for more money)
Seed keeper: make a binder with 3hole-punched plastic ziplock bags to store seeds
Rain garden how-to publications from UW Extension, WI DNR, or Dane County
Set of reused 5 gal plastic pails with handles for hauling tools, weeds, mulch, etc
Re-gift good quality tools you no longer use

\$5-\$10

Birds of Wisconsin placemat
Hand balm or lotion such as Badger Balm or a cranberry based lotion
"Pesticide free zone" sign made of metal with large ladybug image, or safe lawn sign
Amaryllis bulb in a pot or tulip, hyacinth, and narcissus bulbs for indoors
Double hose connector so one faucet can handle two hoses
Organic or local maple syrup, honey or jams
Good quality tape measure

\$10-\$25

Polypropylene floating row cover for vegetables, or nylon net trellis for vegetables
Soil knife for weeding and transplanting
Garden gloves: lots of new fabrics and types available
Hanging pocket shoe organizer for tools, gloves, seeds
Stainless steel compost pail for kitchen counter
Water siphons or other system for indoor plant watering while you are away
Bat house (build it yourself from plans or buy one, for a more expensive gift)
Noodlehead flexible sprinkler to target water only where you need it
Wide brimmed hat for sun protection
Rural mailbox mounted on post in yard to store extra set of gloves and trowel
LED headlamp for gardening at night
Fresh local organic produce or gift certificate to restaurant that serves local produce
Set of "Growing ____ (salad greens, tomatoes, etc) in WI" Extension publications
A string of LED lights to decorate your house using 90% less heat and energy
Floral arrangement coil, or "frogs"
EnAct Guide: how to reduce your impact on the environment at home, geared for Dane Co.
Good quality thermometer, simple large copper or electronic min/max thermometer

\$25-\$50

Milking stool on waist belt, or rolling garden seat, or garden kneeler
Barley ball for keeping algae out of your pond naturally
Manual water timer for garden hose shut-off: set dial for 5 min-2 hours and walk away
Cultivators such as long handled diamond hoe or CobraHead weeder
Upright dandelion weeding tools such as Speedy Weedy, Weed Hound
Compost Tea Brewing Manual (3rd edition, by Dr. Elaine Ingham)
Gift certificate to Community Car for access to hybrid cars, a truck, a mini cooper and a van
Mushroom growing kit
Power tool rental certificate

Drip irrigation kit
Natural organic clothes, robes, baby clothes, household linens, or pillows
Hand crank radio to listen to “Garden Talk” without any batteries

\$50+

Push lawn mower
Flame weeder
OverEasy Composter
Rain barrel
Weather station: electronic data on temp, rainfall, windspeed, humidity
CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) share for weekly veggies in season

Hand Made Gifts

Leopold bench, garden record book, rain barrel, worm bin, garden trellis, mosaic stepping stones, bookmarks, potpourri, wreaths, garlands, cloth napkins or grocery bags, soothing neck wrap, homemade soap, oil and vinegar infusions, tinctures, bath salts, window boxes, notecards, pinecone peanut butter bird feeder, mini gazing ball from xmas bulbs glued to copper tubing.

The Gift of Time

Certificates for services such as tool sharpening, hauling mulch or compost, planting a container or a rain garden, raking, visits to botanic gardens (even in winter), or a massage for the gardener

Sources

- UW Extension Publications: from your WI County Extension Office or (877) 947-7827
- UW Healthy Farmers, Healthy Profits Project, handouts on work efficiency tools
<http://bse.wisc.edu/hfhp>
- Charley’s Greenhouse & Garden, Mt. Vernon, WA (800) 322-4707 www.charleysgreenhouse.com
- Lee Valley, Ogdensburg, NY (800) 871-8159 www.leevalley.com
- Gardeners Supply, Burlington, VT (800) 427-3363, www.gardeners.com
- A.M. Leonards, Piqua, OH (800) 543-8955 www.amleonard.com
- Alsto’s Handy Helpers, Galesburg, IL (800) 447-0048 www.alstos.com
- Gardens Alive!, Lawrenceburg, IN (812) 537-8650 www.gardensalive.com
- Field & Forest Products, Peshtigo WI (mushroom kit) www.fieldforest.net
- Compostbasics, Madison WI (OverEasy Composter) compostbasics.com
- Harmony Giam Living gaiamliving.com (800) 869-3446 (organic clothes, linens), see also Satara www.satara-inc.com and Hempen Goods www.hempengoods.com in Madison, WI
- Maple Valley (organic syrup), Cashton, WI, (800) 760-1449 www.maplevalleysyrup.com
- Glacier Valley Enterprises (long handled hoe), Baraboo, WI (800) 236-6670 www.glacierv.com
- Nasco (milking stool) (800) 558-9595 www.enasco.com
- Birds of WI placemat: aboutplaceconsulting.com, wisconsinbirds.org
- Rain garden publications: UW Extension Water Resources Education <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/>, and Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds <http://www.danewaters.com/private/raingarden.aspx>
- Healthy Lawns sign: healthylawnteam.org
- Sustain Dane, rainbarrels made by volunteers to support Sustain Dane www.sustaindane.org
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farm Shares www.macsac.org
- Community Car, Madison, WI (608) 204-0400 www.communitycar.com
- Madison Environmental Group, Inc. (608) 280-0800 www.madisonenvironmental.com call or email sonya@madisonenvironmental.com to order EnAct Guide or visit www.enactwi.org