

Garden Gifts and Other Green Gift Ideas

Prepared by Dr. Astrid and Dr. Sonya Newenhouse

Wisconsin Public Radio -- Larry Meiller's "Garden Talk" 12/2/05

Gifts Under \$5 (most are gifts you can make)

Pinecone with peanut butter bird feeder

Ice ring luminaries you make and deliver

Set of reused 5 gal plastic pails with handles

Plant labels from old metal blinds or plastic milk jugs

Compost tea with water, kitchen scraps and large jar

Orchard mason bee house

Seed keeper: make a binder with 3 hole-punched plastic ziplock bags to store seeds

"Rain gardens, a how-to manual for homeowners": WI Department of Natural Resources

Gifts \$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

Organic or local maple syrup, honey or jams

Gifts \$10-\$25

Hanging plant pulley

Long lasting clay soap (pumice-like terra cotta impregnated with soap)

Polypropylene floating row cover for vegetables

Nylon net trellis

Stainless steel compost pail for kitchen counter

Water siphons for indoor plant watering while you are away, ceramic with tubing

Self watering frog or squirrel to drip water on houseplants while you are away

Siphon mixer that connects to hose to add liquid fertilizer to your water

Bat house (build yourself from plans or buy one for more money)

Bat guano fertilizer

Noodlehead flexible sprinkler to target water only where you need it

Wide brimmed hat for sun

Second-hand kitchen cabinet converted into wall mounted tool storage for your garage or shed

Rural mailbox mounted on post in yard to store extra set of gloves and trowel

Headlamp for gardening at night

Fresh local organic produce

Set of "Growing -- (salad greens, tomatoes, etc) in WI" Extension publications

Gifts \$25-\$50

Milking stool on waist belt

Manual water timer for garden hose shut-off: set dial for 5 min-2 hours and walk away

Long handled diamond hoe

Bulb auger for power drill

Compost Tea Brewing Manual (3rd edition, by Dr. Elaine Ingham)

Professional apple picker's bag

Become a member of Community Car and have access to hybrid cars and a truck

Gifts \$50+

Gift certificate to a restaurant that promotes locally grown foods

Push lawn mower

Weather station: temp, rainfall, windspeed, humidity

Buy a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) share for weekly veggies in season

If time allows: Here are more items to consider making

Aldo Leopold bench, garden record book, rain barrel, worm bin, garden trellis, mosaic stepping stones, bookmarks, potpourri, landscape plan, wreaths and garlands, cloth napkins, cloth grocery bags, soothing neck wrap, sachets, homemade soap, oil and vinegar infusions, tinctures, bath salts, window boxes, notecards

Last minute:

Certificates for services such as tool sharpening, hauling bark chips or compost, planting a container, raking, or visits to botanic gardens, or gift certificate to local plant nurseries, or a massage.

Sources

- UW Extension Publications: check the Gardening and Home Grounds catalog from your WI County Extension Office or (877) 947-7827
- Charley's Greenhouse & Garden, Mt. Vernon, WA (800) 322-4707 charleysgreenhouse.com
- Lee Valley, Ogdensburg, NY (800) 871-8159, leevalley.com
- Peaceful Valley Farm Supply, Grass Valley, CA, (888) 784-1722, groworganic.com
- Gardeners Supply, Burlington, VT (800) 427-3363, gardeners.com
- A.M. Leonards, Piqua, OH (800) 543-8955, amleonard.com
- Alsto's Handy Helpers, Galesburg, IL (800) 447-0048, alstos.com
- Gardens Alive!, Lawrenceburg, IN (812) 537-8650, gardensalive.com
- Maple Valley (organic syrup), Cashton, WI, (800) 760-1449, maplevalleysyrup.com
- Bat house plans: Bat Conservation International batcon.org/home
- Glacier Valley Enterprises (long handled diamond hoe), Baraboo, WI (800) 236-6670, glacierv.com
- Nasco (milking stool) (800) 558-9595, enasco.com
- Birds of WI placemat: wisconsinbirds.org, aboutplaceconsulting.com
- Rain garden DNR publication: dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/documents/rgmanual.pdf
- Dr. Jonathans Lotion company (cranberry lotions): berryworks.com/
- Healthy Lawns sign: healthylawnteam.org
- Aldo Leopold bench plans: epa.gov/glnpo/greenacres/wildones/handbk/wo27bench.html
- UW Healthy Farmers, Healthy Profits Project, handouts on work efficiency tools: bse.wisc.edu/hfhp
- L'Etoile Restaurant (608) 251-0500, letoile-restaurant.com
- Madison Environmental Group, Inc. (608) 280-0800, madisonenvironmental.com
- Community Car, Madison, WI (608) 204-0400, communitycar.com