

## **Garden Gifts and Other Green Gift Ideas**

Prepared by sisters Dr. Astrid and Dr. Sonya Newenhouse

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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.charleysgreenhouse.com)
- Lee Valley, Ogdensburg, NY (800) 871-8159 [www.leevalley.com](http://www.leevalley.com)
- Gardeners Supply, Burlington, VT (800) 427-3363, [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com)
- A.M. Leonards, Piqua, OH (800) 543-8955 [www.amleonard.com](http://www.amleonard.com)
- Alsto’s Handy Helpers, Galesburg, IL (800) 447-0048 [www.alstos.com](http://www.alstos.com)
- Gardens Alive!, Lawrenceburg, IN (812) 537-8650 [www.gardensalive.com](http://www.gardensalive.com)
- Field & Forest Products, Peshtigo WI (mushroom kit) [www.fieldforest.net](http://www.fieldforest.net)
- Compostbasics, Madison WI (OverEasy Composter) [compostbasics.com](http://compostbasics.com)
- Harmony Giam Living [gaiamliving.com](http://gaiamliving.com) (800) 869-3446 (organic clothes, linens), see also Satara [www.satara-inc.com](http://www.satara-inc.com) and Hempen Goods [www.hempengoods.com](http://www.hempengoods.com) in Madison, WI
- Maple Valley (organic syrup), Cashton, WI, (800) 760-1449 [www.maplevalleysyrup.com](http://www.maplevalleysyrup.com)
- Glacier Valley Enterprises (long handled hoe), Baraboo, WI (800) 236-6670 [www.glacierv.com](http://www.glacierv.com)
- Nasco (milking stool) (800) 558-9595 [www.enasco.com](http://www.enasco.com)
- Birds of WI placemat: [aboutplaceconsulting.com](http://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](http://healthylawnteam.org)
- Sustain Dane, rainbarrels made by volunteers to support Sustain Dane [www.sustaindane.org](http://www.sustaindane.org)
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farm Shares [www.macsac.org](http://www.macsac.org)
- Community Car, Madison, WI (608) 204-0400 [www.communitycar.com](http://www.communitycar.com)
- Madison Environmental Group, Inc. (608) 280-0800 [www.madisonenvironmental.com](http://www.madisonenvironmental.com) call or email [sonya@madisonenvironmental.com](mailto:sonya@madisonenvironmental.com) to order EnAct Guide or visit [www.enactwi.org](http://www.enactwi.org)