

# THE OUTSIDER

Illinois Extension Horticulture serving Henry, Mercer Rock Island and Stark



## OUTSIDER GIFTS

All year long, Outsiders are in the mood to give and share. Giving friends cut flowers, sharing extra garden produce with neighbors, and celebrating the joy of gardening is a year-round activity. But winter holidays put everyone in the mood for giving, receiving, celebrating, and gathering. If you are looking for gift ideas for your gardening loved ones or need to drop hints to those in your life, check out a few ideas below.

## HAND TOOLS

From pocket snips and hand pruners to trowels and hand hoes, high quality tools make the work of gardening so much more efficient and enjoyable. Mix and match to accommodate your budget and needs of your gardener. Include a garden belt so these precious tools will never be misplaced or out of reach when needed most.

- Pocket snips are great for light gardening work such as dead heading, pruning small shrubs, or house plant grooming
- Hand pruners are the workhorse of garden tools useful for making precision pruning cuts on woody plant material
- Trowels and hand hoes are small but mighty tools that can be used with less effort than larger versions and in smaller spaces like containers or raised beds.



## BOOKS

For many gardeners, long winter days are spent dreaming of the upcoming growing season. Gardening books can help bring those dreams to life or encourage them to run wild. It truly is the most wonderful time of year when the seed catalogs start filling the mailbox but there are so many rich resources beyond annual catalogs. Here is a short list of options but with a little searching, you are sure to find the perfect book for your loved one (or yourself).

- *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- *The Overstory* by Richard Powers
- *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson
- *The Lost Words* by Robert Macfarlane
- *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren

## GLOVES

Light weight, thorn resistant gloves will always be an appreciated gift for gardeners. And they are available in a variety of colors, sizes, styles and intended uses. Personalize the gift by choosing colors and patterns that represent the recipient. The many tasks of tending a garden require a variety of gloves so have no fear, it is hard to go wrong with gloves.



"Joy in looking and comprehending is nature's most beautiful gift."

- Albert Einstein

## SEEDS, BULBS, TUBERS AND CORMS

With so many options available, seeds and bulbs are an easy way to give a thoughtful, custom gift. Create a one-of-a-kind collection that represents the recipient. Create a bright collection of blooming plants for the color enthusiast. Give a culinary artist a variety of herbs and edible flowers. Give the adventuresome grower vegetable selections in unusual colors, sizes, or forms. Gift children the gift of easy to grow flowers and vegetables. The options are endless, and your thoughtfulness will be appreciated.





## GARDEN CARTS AND CONTAINERS

The excitement of harvest is enhanced when high quality, well sized produce containers are available. This gift will get your favorite gardener even more excited about the upcoming growing season. An all-purpose garden cart will quickly become one of the most loved tools in the garden shed. Useful for hauling tools, mulch, garden waste, produce, wood, and so much more. This will save time and energy walking to and from the storage shed, freeing the Outsider up to do what they love most...being outside!

## HOMEMADE GIFTS FROM THE GARDEN

Don't forget about sharing the gifts of the garden or your own talents. Homemade gifts are especially meaningful because they are unique and one of a kind. From jams and jellies made with homegrown fruits, to customized plant markers, to a potting table or drying rack, DIY gifts are a great way to share your love of gardening with those you care about most.



## GIFT CARDS

If, after all this, you are still at a loss for what to get your gardening friend, pick up a gift card to your local garden center or nursery. Gifts cards are thoughtful ways of showing your loved one that you celebrate their gardening passion and want them to have exactly what they need to be successful.

*"The greatest gift of the garden is the restoration of the five senses."*

-Hannah Rion

## OUTSIDER ACTION

- Check your gift list twice and include Outdoor oriented items.
- Treat yourself to a little something special for your Outdoor adventure.

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