Holiday Gifts for the Gardener

Distribute 12-03-2015

The gardeners on your Holiday gift list are easy to buy for! There are many great gifts in all price ranges from which to choose.

Gardeners in San Antonio use raised beds to grow vegetables and flowers. To turn the soil over or incorporate fresh compost into the garden each year requires some serious work with a shovel unless your favorite gardener has one of the lightweight tillers made especially for the job. The tillers are marvelous to use as long as the gardener can temporarily move the drip irrigation out of the way. Most equipment manufacturers including Stihl, Mantas and Honda offer such tillers in the $300 range.

There are a great many gifts at area retail nurseries including gloves, Tilly hats, tough modern and old-fashioned roses, decorative planting containers and drip irrigation kits but unless you know your gardener’s preferences and landscape plan, it may be best to purchase a gift certificate from her/his favorite nursery. Among the advantages of a gift certificate are that you set the budget and the gardener gets to spend some enjoyable time at the nursery. The gardener has the opportunity to select the plants and accessories that match the needs of her/his landscape plan.

If your gardener appreciates the birds, a neat idea is to purchase a bird bath ($50-100) as a gift. The bird bath will provide a consistent source of water for the birds in your gardener’s landscape through the inevitable dry spells. Include a water dripping mechanism ($15-50 from the internet) and the bird bath will bring in hard to observe birds such as buntings, warblers, and orioles.

Gardening books are always an excellent gift. There are many from which to choose but here are a few ideas. For the gardener that has a new landscape to complete or just wants to improve the existing landscape, consider “Home Landscaping , Texas” by Greg Grant and Roger Holmes ($16.75). The well written book breaks the landscape into small doable pieces that make the overall project easier to handle.

Water efficiency needs to be an essential part of every South Texas landscape. The book “Drip Line Gardening” by Tom Harris and Ron Csehil will provide a gardener the information she/he requires to construct and manage an efficient drip irrigation system for landscapes, containers and gardens. Visit the website [www.thehillcountrygardener](http://www.thehillcountrygardener) or Amazon to purchase the easy to use book ($48).