



## The Pros Choose This Year's Best Gardening Gifts

By Marie Woodward, UConn Home & Garden Education Center

Getting the perfect holiday gift for your favorite garden geek can pose a real challenge. They probably already have a library full of garden books and a shed full of tools. So, to help you find the perfect gift, we took a survey of the pros at the UConn Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture and the UConn Home and Garden Education Center and received a number of gift suggestions we think any gardener would love to have. Here are their selections for the best gifts for the gardener in your life - even if that gardener is you.

**Leaf Scoops** - If you're doing any leaf work by hand, leaf scoops will make the job a lot easier. Each scoop has a strap that fits over each hand like a glove, making your hands giant scoops. They're perfect for large piles of leaves, grass clippings, twigs or mulch. The scoops are good for children as well as adults and can make yard clean up more fun.

**Bulb auger** - If you're looking for a way to work smarter and not harder, you can't go wrong with a bulb auger. This auger attaches to any power drill and can be used for planting bulbs, small flowers, vegetables, or planter boxes. It can also be used for mixing seed with fertilizer. It's a back and leg saver.



Gardeaserretail - \$32 Amazon /Royars Upgrade 3pcs Auger Drill Bit. Retail \$24.99 Amazon

**Hydroponic garden** - For the gardener who just hates being idle in winter, hydroponic gardens make an excellent choice. As the name implies, a hydroponic garden uses nutrient solution instead of soil. With a plethora of options, anyone can grow just about anything using this method.



iDOO Hydroponics Growing System Retail \$79.00 Amazon/Donsail Hoe Garden Tool Retail \$21.99 Amazon

**Stirrup hoe** - For the chore most gardeners hate to do, a stirrup hoe uses a push/pull motion to pull weeds more quickly and efficiently, cutting the weeds at the roots. In addition, it can cultivate around live growing plants with ease.

**Detachable glove clips** - These small gadgets help prevent dropped objects like gloves or small tools. They allow gardeners to make it easier to switch between gloved work and fine-detailed tasks. They also eliminates bending down or spending time looking for those gloves and are also helpful in keeping gloves together when storing.



Squids 3400 Glove Clip HOLDER with Dual Clips Retail \$3.75 [ergodyne.com](http://ergodyne.com)/COOLJOB Gardening Gloves for Women and Ladies Retail \$13.99 Amazon

**Garden gloves** - Because a gardener can never have too many gloves.



**Garden kneeler with seat** - Not only does it save pants from getting dirty, but the side bars allow for easy lowering, and it helps push you back up to your feet. Once finished the kneeler flips over to make a bench to sit on while you soak in the view of all your hard work.



Garden Kneeler and Seat Heavy Duty by Ohuhu Retail \$43.99 Amazon/WORX WG\$#) 13 Amp Electric Leaf Mulcher Retail \$159 Amazon

**Worx WG430 13 AMP electric Leaf mulcher** - This leaf mulcher is the all-in-one solution to an annual problem: piles and piles of leaves in the yard. It smartly disposes of heaps of leafy yard waste in a few simple steps, turning hundreds of gallons of rotting leaves into vitamin-rich, organic mulch that's a perfect fertilizer for your flowerbed or garden. The WORX Flex-a-Line bladeless mulching system uses normal, heavy-duty grass trimmer lines instead of dangerous metal blades to easily and safely mulch through leaves and debris.

**Hori Hori Garden Knife** - The ultimate multiple-use tool. Great for digging, planting, cutting and trenching. Inch marks on the tempered-steel blade can measure depth when planting. Each has a straight and a serrated edge, which is perfect for cutting through roots.



Hori Hori Ultimate Garden Tool with Sheath Retail \$49.99 brecksgifts.com

Check out your local garden center or farm supply store to try and purchase as many items locally. If your garden geek really does have just about everything, give them a gift certificate to their favorite garden center, and fear not; they are sure to find that just right something you, and our experts, haven't thought of.

If you have gardening questions, contact the UConn Home & Garden Education at (877) 486-6271 or [www.homegarden.cahnr.uconn.edu](http://www.homegarden.cahnr.uconn.edu) or your local Cooperative Extension Center.