

# SHOP

## holiday

### Gift ideas for gardeners



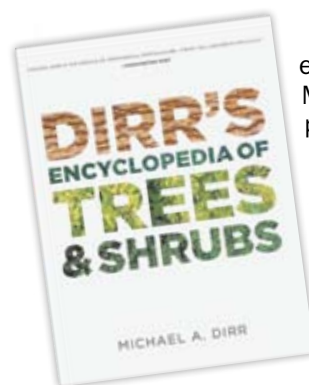
Gloves are the gardener's best friend. But you can spend a mint on these garden staples. But why, when you can get a latex-coated pair, with a knit, and therefore breathable backing, for less than \$4. Use them up and then toss them away with no qualms. Buy your favorite gardener a bundle. Available at most big box stores or hardware store.



Come January, your favorite gardener will be longing for a pop of color. A box of flower bulbs for forcing, such as paperwhites or amaryllis, will chase away the winter blues. Most come with the bulb, growing medium and container. Prices vary, but Home Depot has a nice selection for \$5.98 each. If you want to go a little fancier, Plow & Hearth offers tulips, dwarf amaryllis, amaryllis, paperwhites and Star of Bethlehem, ready to go in a reusable embossed container. \$19.95 plus shipping, [www.plowandhearth.com](http://www.plowandhearth.com).



There is nothing more frustrating than wrestling with a lawn and leaf bag in the midst of yard cleanup. Anything that makes that easier is a welcome addition to a gardener's tool shed. LeafMate's collapsible bag holder and yard waste funnel eases cleanup chores. The bag holder features an elastic cord to hold the bag open and upright for easy filling. The bottomless design allows it to accommodate nearly all 33 gallon to 55 gallon plastic or biodegradable bags. \$24.99; Kmart, Walmart and True Value hardware stores or [www.leafmate.com](http://www.leafmate.com).



Billed as the "horticultural publishing event of the year" famed horticulturist Michael Dirr's new book "Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees & Shrubs" is a comprehensive and authoritative reference with more than 3,500 photographs, 380 genera and 3,700 species and cultivars. The book is published by Timber Press. \$79.95; Amazon.com or at local bookstores.

What gardener doesn't need a pair of pruners? Fiskars has come out with a professional quality pair of bypass pruners with a titanium blade coating for longer wear. The tool also has an angled head, adjustable blade tension, ergonomic handles and an integrated sap groove for blade self-cleaning. \$24.99; Home Depot and Lowe's.



MatMates interchangeable mat system sets the floral stage right up front, with a wide selection of doormats with garden/nature/holiday themes. The mats, which can be used alone or with a doormat tray, are made from nonslip recycled rubber and are weatherproof and fadeproof for indoor/outdoor use. \$23.50; Fred Dietz Floral & Gifts, Bellevue. Sturdy tray is an additional \$34.50.