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SHOPPING
DAYS LEFTWHAT TO BUY
GARDENERS2015
HOLIDAY
GIFT GUIDE

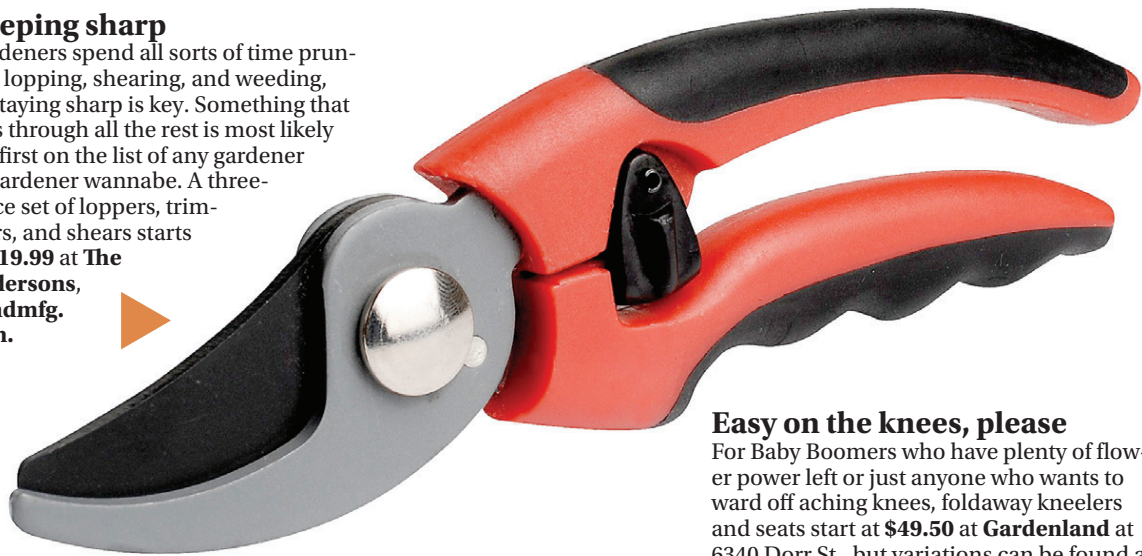
There's always someone on your list who still wants to play in the dirt. Whether this person is a serial plant killer whose heart is in the right place, a

budding gardener, or someone who's all green thumbs, here are a few tips to really dig into the season of giving.

— By **HEATHER DENNISS**, BLADE STAFF WRITER

Keeping sharp

Gardeners spend all sorts of time pruning, lopping, shearing, and weeding, so staying sharp is key. Something that cuts through all the rest is most likely the first on the list of any gardener or gardener wannabe. A three-piece set of loppers, trimmers, and shears starts at **\$19.99** at **The Andersons**, bondmfg.com.

**Easy on the knees, please**

For Baby Boomers who have plenty of flower power left or just anyone who wants to ward off aching knees, foldaway kneelers and seats start at **\$49.50** at **Gardenland** at 6340 Dorr St., but variations can be found at **Target**, **Walmart**, Amazon.com, and many other gardening stores.

**Make your bed and grow in it**

Want to eat the vegetables you grow but live in an apartment? How about a Greenland gardening raised bed kits? Find these on Amazon.com and at **Walmart**, starting at **\$32.92**.

**The birds and the bees**

Don't forget the bats, butterflies, and squirrels who want to share the habitat. Wild Birds Unlimited offers a variety of feeding options to attract all manner of feathered friends, including hummingbirds. And a bird bed and breakfast wouldn't be the same without a place to take a bath. The business has birdbaths that stay heated to keep your feathered guests warm. Hot tub, anyone? Bats can feel welcome too with a bat house to be their bat cave. A peanut wreath bird feeder starts at **\$17.99** at **Wild Birds Unlimited**, 5236 Monroe St., Suite D, or toledo.wbu.com or something for weary bees' knees at uncommongoods.com.

Growing local

Sow your money in Toledo and watch it take root. Toledo Botanical Garden's gift shop, Seasons, has a number of locally made items for which TBG, its flower child Toledo GROWS, and local artisans reap some of the profits. Operation Sunflower seeds start at **\$2**, hand-sewn garden aprons at **\$30**, and herb-planter gift sets at **\$20**. **Seasons Gift shop**, 5403 Elmer Dr.

**Gardening garb**

Is there etiquette for what should be worn while gardening? Perhaps there's no rule, but hats and gloves do seem to get the most attention. Hats are to keep your head covered from the hot sun, so dealer's choice there. But get a grip: Cotton work gloves are no longer as utilitarian as they look. The right glove for the right job is essential now: working with roses, landscaping, gripping, pulling, or general labor. Materials range from the standby cloth, but other materials include pigskin, cowhide, goatskin and sheepskin, neoprene, and nitrile. An assortment of garden gloves can be found starting at **\$2** a pair and can climb from there. Found at **Gardenland**, **Home Depot**, and other stores. More apparel can be found at gardeners.com.



* Prices and availability subject to change.

**Gardening helpers**

So your giftee is determined to keep something green, despite the withered past. Watering is an art. How can you be sure your plant is getting enough of it? Self-watering containers, a Plant Nanny, or Aqua Globe can help remove the guesswork and prove to be a way to come back to a room full of green after a vacation. Don't laugh, but another way to help a struggling gardener is to buy a Chia Pet. They've been around for 40 years. Who wouldn't want a Chia Abraham Lincoln or a zombie restless arm for your living room? If that makes you a bit uncomfortable, Chia herb garden starters are available as well, and they are a great gift to help get children growing. Chia Pets can be found for as little **\$12** on Amazon.com, at **The Andersons**, and other places. Self-watering containers start at **\$6.99** at **The Andersons**, and **Nature's Corner**, 6036 Angola Rd., Holland, offers pretty plant nannies that start at **\$19.99**. mynaturescorner.com

**Gardening equipment in a bag**

If you want to give the gardening gift to a beginner who doesn't know where to start, gardening gift bags can carry all the tools needed to start digging. Starting at **\$29.99** at **Bed Bath and Beyond**. These sets can be found at **Kohl's** and other places. BedBathandBeyond.com.

**Fairy gardens**

Fairies might get lost in a garden, so why not help your gardener form one that's small enough to create an enchanting world for pixies or gnomes, or other toys. Find a container, tiny plants and moss, and the gardener on your list can be off and growing. Gardenland has plenty of kits and accessories. Many other garden centers, hobby stores, and websites offer ideas and items to please miniature denizens. Accessories begin at **\$5** and kits begin at **\$29** at **Gardenland Nursery and Garden Center**.

Garden bling

Your garden makes you smile. Why not have it smile back at you? **Garden Smiles** in Waterville has whimsical sculptures, rain gauges, thermometers, memorial stones, and more made by local artist George Carruth. Plaques start at **\$42**. carruthstudio.com. The store is at 211 Mechanic St., Waterville. Then, there are gazing balls, stepping stones, and all kinds of wind chimes.

