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The holiday season is here and many of us are caught in the hustle and bustle. There is plenty of decorating to do, and still some gardening chores, but it is also the season for giving. If you have a gardener on your list, you have a lot of great options.

Gardeners never have everything they could possibly need. There are always new gardening gadgets, pruners, hoes, and containers. Ergonomic tools for our aging gardeners, hand tools and even kid-sized tools are available in many different sizes and shapes. Power tools abound from mowers to chainsaws, mulching machines, blowers and trimmers. You know they are a serious gardener if a load of compost is on their wish list. And they may need a wheelbarrow or cart to haul it with.

There are plants to purchase; including trees and shrubs, fruit trees and blueberry bushes, houseplants, bulbs and seeds. Holiday plants are always welcome, from the popular poinsettia, to amaryllis, red bromeliads, cyclamen, kalanchoe and orchids. Living wreaths or garlands, topiary rosemary plants or other holiday plants are more options.

A subscription to a popular gardening magazine or one of a myriad of gardening books will always be in good taste. Whether their interest is fruits and vegetables, ornamentals, houseplants or herbs, there is a book on that topic. Consider the gift of membership in a local plant society such as the Native Plant Society, Herb Society or Orchid Society. If they love vegetables but don't have room to grow their own, give them a share in a CSA (Community supported agriculture) where they get fresh vegetables each week during the growing season.

If they are new to gardening, get them started with a raised bed kit—raised bed frames come in a range of sizes and shapes; add some soil and seeds to get them growing when the season begins. If mobility is an issue, there are now salad tables and herb beds that you can stand next to and garden standing up. There are garden scooters and kneeling benches that can also help.

The most important input for a garden is water. To help your gardener, there are hoses, drip irrigation kits, spray wands and nozzles, and sprinklers. A fancy watering can or hose end sprayer would also be welcome. And to make sure they know what the weather is in their yard, a home weather station or simple rain gauge is a sure hit.

No gardener will ever have enough garden gloves—or be able to find them when they need them. Gloves aren't the only wearable gardening item—safety glasses, mosquito repellent clothing, sun repellent clothing, hats, aprons, kneelers and of course garden shoes—from clogs to boots, there is a wide range of options with a myriad of colors and patterns.

For the serious gardener you could give them a greenhouse. If they already own one, there are many gadgets that can be added, from automated heaters or watering systems, to shelves, storage components, and pots.

Hydroponic and aquaponics systems are available for folks to grow plants indoors and in greenhouses, and now there are living wall kits that allow you to grow a green wall. Plant lights have also come a long way. Instead of "grow light bulbs" there

are now specialized LED light kits with many different options, which makes growing your own transplants easy. You can also grow herbs or salad greens year-round on your kitchen counter.

High tech has also hit the gardening world. There are plant sensors that you put in the ground near your plants that monitor water and fertilizer needs. A rain sensor is a smart gadget to add to your sprinkler system to avoid watering when it is pouring down outside, and there are even containers for houseplants that talk to you about the needs of the plant. Some ideas are obviously better than others!

There are also an endless array of art for the garden, from statues and fountains, to wind chimes and mobiles. Glass objects, metal works, stone and bronze pieces abound. From small garden flags and rugs, to large trellises and gazebos the list of outdoor living choices is almost unlimited. Think about patio furniture or benches, potting sheds, or a garden umbrella. Grills and outdoor kitchens continue to gain in popularity as more people live in their yards as well as their homes.

And we haven't even touched the related areas like bee keeping and backyard chickens. That would be a whole other list! So for all the gardeners on your list, your biggest challenge may be deciding what to buy. If you don't have time to go shopping, there are plenty of mail order options, or better yet, give a gift certificate to a local nursery. Happy Holidays and Happy Gardening!