

THE GARDEN SPOT

by Kate Rogers Gessert

Holiday Gifts for Gardeners

Nurseries, plant stores, and bookstores around Eugene have lots of good presents for gardeners. There are the inevitable poinsettias (which are poisonous, so keep them out of reach of small children), Jerusalem cherries (also poisonous), and Christmas cactuses. Rainday Florist has small, graceful cyclamens with flowers of white, rose, lavender, and pink, \$5 for a small pot; and Indoor Garden has small, healthy gardenia plants for \$4. Cyclamens bloom all winter in a sunny window. Gardenias need both sun and extra humidity; they do best with their pots set on top of a wide saucer of gravel and water. Gray's has the best price for giant amaryllis bulbs, all potted up and ready to grow for \$5.95 (several dollars less than at other stores). You can also buy a bulb for \$3.95 and pot it up yourself.

At West 11th Garden Center, there are windowsill herb gardens—5 herbs in a narrow, wooden planter—for \$6.65, and small pots of individual herbs for 79 cents each.

Chase Gardens has a good selection of house plants, in small, large, and enormous sizes. Some of the more unusual plants include cycads (slow-growing, palm-like plants from the age of dinosaurs—some living cycads are believed to be 14,000 years old) and trellised passion flowers. There are also large hanging baskets of asparagus "Sprengeri," lipstick vine, and creeping fig. When you shop for house plants, check for evidence of spider mite: areas of tiny webs underneath the leaves.

Reed and Cross, Gray's, and West 11th Garden Center have a large selection of live Christmas trees and English holly in pots. Think carefully before you buy one and plant it in your garden after Christmas. Many firs, spruces, and pines will eventually become 100 or 200 feet tall. English holly grows up to 75 feet tall, and sheds prickly leaves all summer. All these evergreens create dense shade.

Most nurseries and plant stores have plenty of wreaths, made variously of traditional evergreens and pine cones, of grape vines, moss, eucalyptus, dried flowers, and even culinary herbs. Most are \$10 and up. Rainday Florist has the best selection in town of make-your-own-wreath greens: 18 different kinds, most for 75 cents a pound. You can take a wire coat hanger, round it out into a circle, and attach greens and pine cones with florist's wire. It takes 5 or 6 pounds of greens to make a wreath.

If you'd like to make your own terrarium, Indoor Garden has bags of potting soil, gravel, and charcoal, advice on how to make the terrarium, and lots of small houseplants to put inside it. Different-colored labels indicate which plants in

the store are suited to different indoor conditions, including terrariums. There are also expensive glass containers for terrariums.

Gray's has a wide selection of gardening tools and bird feeders and barrels of shallots and garlic for winter planting. Down to Earth is selling \$12 to \$20 holiday gift baskets for gardeners: hand tools and organic fertilizers in red-and-green peck baskets. Paddock-Bauer has \$35 ornamental bronze water faucets, with quails, ducks, and other birds for faucet handles.

At several places in town—West 11th Garden Center, Indoor Garden, Reed and Cross, and Chase Gardens—there are whimsical clay pots in various animal shapes—bears, otters, chickens, ducks, rabbits, elephants, and unicorns, most about \$10. There are many other attractive clay pots, large and small, glazed and unglazed, and brass containers and baskets for pots. Indoor Garden has an especially wide selection of these.

There are some excellent books for gardeners this year, many at Marketplace Books. Two magnificent, expensive color picture books—\$40 and \$35 respectively—are *Visions of Paradise* and *Color in the Garden*. *The Herb Garden*, *The Salad Garden*, and *The Wild Garden*, members of an excellent series published by Viking-Penguin, are full of charming color photographs and good ideas, and they cost \$12.95 each. *The Herb Garden* is at Book Mark rather than Marketplace Books. Both these stores, and most other local bookstores as well, have copies of my book, *The Beautiful Food Garden*, for about \$10, and I will be selling it myself at Saturday Market on non-rainy Saturdays during December, for \$6 to \$10 on a sliding scale. Greer Gardens has an excellent selection of gardening books, many from Timber Press here in Oregon.

If you like, you can give a gift in your favorite gardener's name to an organization that helps preserve the environment or combat world hunger. Several excellent organizations are Oregon Natural Resources Council (1161 Lincoln, Eugene, OR 97401), Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (454 Willamette, Eugene, OR 97401), and Oxfam America (P.O. Box 4192, Boston, MA 02211). Oxfam, short for Oxford Famine Relief, supports the efforts that people are making all over the world to feed themselves. In response to a village request, Oxfam brings village people what they need for food self-sufficiency. Oxfam gives people seeds and tools, and money to set up marketing cooperatives and village-scale irrigation projects.

Happy holidays!



Christmas from around the world



Unique gifts for everyone... sweaters, jewelry, hats & scarves, bags, shirts & blouses, wall hangings, toys, ornaments and more. Visit both stores this Christmas!

762 E. 13th
next to the
Excelsior
343-8667

5th St Market
downstairs
683-2204



FOLKWAYS IMPORTS

Natural Fibre Clothing and Folk Art from around the World

Birkenstock®

Footprint Sandals.

Sizes and preferred colors for men, women, children. Complete repair service.



Birkenstock Footprints
Fifth Pearl Building 207 E. 5th
Eugene, Oregon 342-6107

16th Annual

Old Oregon Christmas Fair

December
7th-22nd
Open 10 am-9 pm

Lane County
Fairgrounds

Admission
is FREE



CHEF'S SPECIAL

2 quart, lively colors, enameled
Teakettles \$9.95
while they last.
Bring in this ad and receive
a free box of tea.

"For the Chef in all of Us!" In the Fifth Pearl
Building at the corner of Fifth & Pearl.

343-4170 Mon-Sat 10-5:30 • Sun 12-5
Validated Parking



Kitchen
Korner

We're New!



Serving—
• Pocket Sandwiches
• Hot, Spiced Cider
• Fresh Baked Treats

In the left, back Pocket of
the Smeede Hotel
776 West Park Street
343-5277
Mon-Fri 9-5

What's HAPPENING

Guide to Local Arts, Entertainment & Events
335 West 20th • Eugene, Oregon 97405
(503) 484-0519

Publishers
Elisabeth Lyman
Lucia McKelvey
Sonja Ungemach

Editor/Business Manager
Lucia McKelvey

Editor/Advertising Manager
Elisabeth Lyman

Editor/Production Manager
Sonja Ungemach

Office Manager
Sheri Longobardo

Ad Design
Tim Jordan

Calendar Editor
Joan Zimmerman

Advertising Representatives
Jack Craig
Susan Brown

Jim Middaugh
Martha Wagner

Contributing Writers

Sean Axmaker
Larry Deckman
Kate Gessert
David Kolen
Jim Middaugh
Maia Penfold
Jim Stiak

Michael Sussman
Lois Wadsworth
Martha Wagner

Proofreader
Deborah McGee

Photographer
David Stein

Distribution
Daybreak News Co.

Typesetting
ProtoType

Camera Work
Production Department

Printing
Springfield News

Published every Thursday



GIFT CERTIFICATES



Give a hot winter's soak to family and friends.
They'll love you for it! One hour for two—\$10.00.
Open noon-midnight, 7 days a week.

ONSEN
HOURLY HOT TUB RENTAL

1883 Garden Ave. (off Franklin Blvd.) 345-9048