

Garden Plots

December 26, 2019



Here's a possible gardener's wish list for the New Year:

- Nice gardening gloves - especially the flexible kinds that rose thorns don't penetrate - or nice-fitting leather gloves.
- Knee pads or knee benches for gardeners to make close work less of a pain.
- A well-made spading fork or shovel.
- Cast-aluminum hand tools or specially designed "ergonomic" tools for less muscle strain.
- A greenhouse or a good cold frame (could be homemade).
- High-quality loppers or hand pruners.
- Gift certificates to garden centers.
- A soil thermometer or moisture meters with 12-inch probes.

- Q Knot reusable cable ties for staking tomatoes or trellises.
- Manual or electric water timer. This device can be attached to any faucet, and automatically shuts off water after a set amount of time.
- Water bubbler with flow control, or other interesting sprinklers.
- Corona Quick Tool Sharpener, a pocket-sized tool for sharpening pruners, shears, blades.
- Floating row covers - lightweight blankets to put over vegetables to capture warmth and protect plants. May be available from the Extension office in February/March.
- Heavier row covers for pot protection from cold winter weather. We have some now at the Extension office at a sale price.
- A Hori Hori Knife, a transplant from Japan that's part trowel and part knife. Also, good for dispatching slugs.
- Folding pruning saws. Fiskers, Barnet or Corona are good brands.
- LED headlamp for gardening or locating slugs at night (if you are so inclined).
- The market has a number of lithium battery-powered chainsaws, pole pruners and weed whackers.
- A good insect, mushroom or weed identification book.

Chip Bulb works at Oregon State University Extension. For more information, call 503-397-3462, or email chip.bulb@oregonstate.edu.