

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 5-10-06) Mother's Day Gift Ideas © 2006

Mother's Day is this Sunday and if your mom's a gardener you might want to explore these garden gift ideas.

Shop at the Kitsap County Master Gardener Foundation Plant Sale at the Kitsap Fairgrounds in the VanZee Building from on Friday May 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday May 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m..

The Poulsbo Garden Club has a plant and garden art sale on Saturday May 13 at the NW Design Center (intersection of 305 and Hostmark in Poulsbo). Additionally the garden club will have a wonderful selection of affordably priced ceramic containers. The sale is from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

In Bremerton BUGS (Bremerton Urban Garden Society) is having a gardening extravaganza on May 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Seaside Church parking lot across from Evergreen Park.

If these opportunities don't provide the perfect gifts for your moms stop in at your favorite local bookstore and spend time in the garden book section. Best bets are books published by Sasquatch, Timber Press and Rodale. You may also want to find the newly revised edition of "Right Plant, Right Place" by Nicola Ferguson. This was the first book I added to my garden library when we returned to Washington State in 1993. It's an invaluable book packed with helpful information for any and all growing conditions. This edition is even better than the first.

You even have time to create a very personal item for your mom's garden. Stop by the hardware or home improvement store and pick up a bag of readymix or quickcrete. A regular size bag will yield five stepping stones. Get a wheelbarrow, fill it with the readymix or quickcrete and add water (the mixture should look like cooked oatmeal). Scoop the mixture into disposable pie tins or cake tins (try round, square or rectangle). Add bits of colored glass and any memento that will make your mom smile. You could even put your handprint or footprint into the cement. One summer a bunch of us garden gals put our footprint and handprints in cement and added colored beads for the fingernails and toenails. Leave the stepping stones in a shady place to dry. In one or two days the stepping stones will be set up and ready to give to your mom as a token of your love.

Haunt garden centers and nurseries for garden gloves, which are always a welcome gift. Better yet how about a gift certificate to your mom's favorite nursery? Some nurseries are offering classes for a small fee. Gift certificates to use on classes would be a good idea.

If you love to work out in the garden why not make up a gift certificate that mom can exchange for several hours of weeding or spreading bark or mulch, or just digging holes where directed.

Handcreams and fragrant soaps are always welcome gifts for gardeners. Baskets are welcome too. Or a huge splurge for mom would be a gift certificate for a hand or body massage to sooth tired gardening muscles.

Last but not least how about a subscription to our new Kitsap and Gig Harbor magazine “WestSound Home and Garden?” I’m a bit partial to this new magazine published by Wet Apple Communications because I write several articles each issue. The fourth issue comes out June 1. Call 1-800-733-7990 or 360-876-7900 to subscribe.

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