

Great gifts, gadgets and gizmos for your garden that won't bust your budget.

# shopping made simple

Go ahead and Google hot gardening gadgets for 2010. We did—and came up with 937,000 search results. Seriously. Ready to start browsing? Um, maybe not so much.

But don't fret. On the following pages, we scope out the **best of the bunch**, ranging in price from **under \$20 up to \$100**. We're talking about clever gadgets that save you time, money and effort while taking your yard one step closer to magazine-spread perfection.

So whether you're **hunting for a gift** for a special gardener or **shopping for yourself**, read on. And it can't hurt to leave this list on the kitchen counter. Your spouse doesn't want to search through 937,000 items, either.



## For less than \$20

### feng shui for the hand

Hoe, weed and cultivate your vegetables in Zenlike harmony with the **Korean Hand Plow**, a hand-forged tool that's been used for centuries by Asian farmers. The swan neck and angled blade work with your arm and wrist, not against them. Ahhh, it's nirvana in a veggie patch. And the heat-treated blade is strong yet lightweight. Weeding never felt this good.

\$14.95, [www.kinsmangarden.com](http://www.kinsmangarden.com)

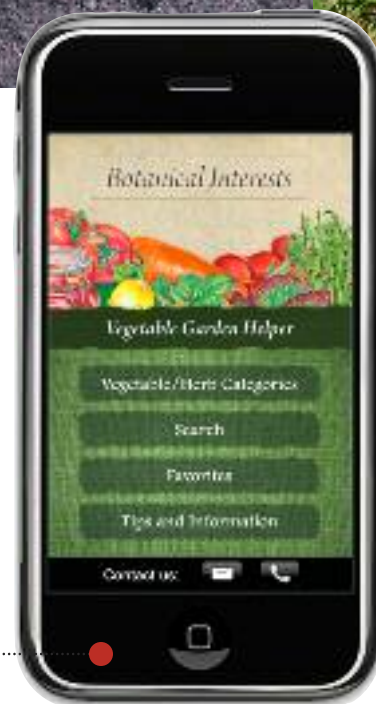


### high-tech gardening app

Novices who don't know compost from cucumbers will enjoy this **gardening iPhone app**, which puts a world of information at your fingertips. It features a multicriteria search function for about 300 veggie varieties sold by Botanical Interests, a family-owned business in Colorado.

You even can e-mail gardening questions to the company. Bonus points: If you e-mail the company from the app, you get 5 percent off your first seed purchase.

\$5.99, [itunes.apple.com](http://itunes.apple.com)



### new twist on trellises

Add a splash of color with these attractive **coil plant supports**. Available in red, blue and green, the chic trellises provide support for everything from grape tomatoes to pole beans. Made of steel, they have a durable, powder-coated finish to prevent rust. And they're as practical as they are pretty: The 65½-inch-tall supports fold flat for winter storage.

\$18.95, [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com)



### make rainfall easy to gauge

You know it rained last night, but you're not sure how much. So what's a gardener to do about watering? With the **EZ Read Jumbo Rain Gauge**, you'll always be in the know—and that info will save you time and money. Plant it in the ground on a 33½-inch-tall rust-resistant stake, or mount it on a fence. Either way, you can read the rainfall from up to 50 feet away, thanks to magnification and bright markings. The unit is 20¼ inches tall and features a debris guard that keeps leaves and such out of the measuring tube.

\$13.95, [www.mastergardening.com](http://www.mastergardening.com)



### keep bugs at bay

Why use messy, chemical-laden insect repellent in your veggie garden? Instead, say bye to bugs—and smell great doing it—with a set of **Bug Off! insect repellent products**.

These all-natural pest fighters include a 4-ounce bottle of bug spray, a 3½-ounce bottle of lotion and a bar of soap. The non-greasy spray is made with lemon eucalyptus oil, a natural repellent. Bonus points: Put the soap in a bucket of water, work up a lather and spray the solution on plants to keep bugs away from them, too.

\$15, [www.moondancesoaps.com](http://www.moondancesoaps.com)



### make rainfall easy to gauge

You know it rained last night, but you're not sure how much. So what's a gardener to do about watering? With the **EZ Read Jumbo Rain Gauge**, you'll always be in the know—and that info will save you time and money. Plant it in the ground on a 33½-inch-tall rust-resistant stake, or mount it on a fence. Either way, you can read the rainfall from up to 50 feet away, thanks to magnification and bright markings. The unit is 20¼ inches tall and features a debris guard that keeps leaves and such out of the measuring tube.

\$13.95, [www.mastergardening.com](http://www.mastergardening.com)



### salad to go? it's in the bag

No time and no space to raise greens for salads? Well, no more excuses, thanks to the **salad planting bag**. This bit of English ingenuity is made of weatherproof polypropylene fabric and features side perforations for drainage and aeration. Two pockets inside hold 55 quarts of container mix. The bag measures 26½ inches long, 12¾ inches wide and 10⅞ inches tall, and reinforced handles make it a portable kitchen garden. Folds flat for compact storage. Seeds not included.

\$19.95, [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com)



## For less than \$50



### look ma, no hands!

Struggling to hold a refuse bag open while dumping in leaves and grass clippings is so yesterday, thanks to this **collapsible garden debris container**. And say goodbye to wasted garage space: The steel coil that keeps the 43-gallon container rigid also allows it to collapse to a mere 3 inches high for storage. Made of rugged synthetic PVC fabric, the tear- and mildew-resistant container is 22 inches in diameter and 26 inches tall, with four padded handles to make trips to the curb or compost heap a snap. It's also good for family camping trips. **\$34.99**, [www.cleanairgardening.com](http://www.cleanairgardening.com)

### plant straight rows, as a rule

How will the vegetables in your garden look this year? Pretty darn straight, if you use the **Smart Stik**, a 4-foot ruler with 1/4-inch markings to help you plant seeds the proper distance apart. It even includes planting instructions for 21 different kinds of vegetable seeds. **\$34.95**, [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com)

### say bye-bye to tomato stakes

Send your tomatoes skyward with a set of three **tomato ladders**, built to handle vigorously growing plants. Made out of 7-milimeter-thick steel legs, the compact ladders are weather-resistant and easier to handle than bulky cages. They also nest for efficient storage. The ladders measure 6 inches wide, 6 inches deep and 57 inches tall, including 13-inch-long legs that sink into the ground. **\$49.95**, [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com)

### help beans reach for the sky

Growing bushels of beans in just 1 1/2 square feet of space may sound about as plausible as your little sprouts snarfing down a snack of lima beans. But the **bean tower** makes it happen with a cool sort of Jack-and-the-beanstalk vibe. Measuring 14 1/4 inches square and 65 inches high (after the 10-inch legs are anchored into the ground), this sturdy galvanized-steel structure yielded 2,400 beans in a 2 1/2-month garden trial. Its 7 1/2-inch-square openings make harvesting a snap, and the tower breaks down into two sections that fold flat for easy storage. Bring on the beans! **\$34.95**; [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com)

### odor-free kitchen compost collector

Sustainable products are all the rage, so consider a **bamboo compost pail** to hold kitchen scraps until you make your way out to the compost heap. No eco-guilt here: Bamboo can grow up to 4 feet a day. So fill this puppy up with eggshells, coffee grounds, veggie peels and the like. Dual charcoal filters in the lid keep odors at bay; a removable plastic liner makes it easy to clean and keeps the bamboo as dry as a good martini. **\$39.99**, [www.cleanairgardening.com](http://www.cleanairgardening.com)



### house calls for sick plants

If you're tired of wasting money on trial-and-error gardening, the **EasyBloom Plant Sensor** lends a high-tech hand. Sink it into the dirt next to a troubled plant, indoors or out, and the sensor measures humidity, sunlight, temperature and water drainage. Then plug it into a PC or Mac, and—voila!—answers are at hand. With a database of more than 5,000 plants, including vegetables, the device will tell you why a particular specimen might be ailing; it also offers suggestions for other plants that will do better in the same area. Now, that's news you can use. **\$44.49**, [www.easybloom.com](http://www.easybloom.com)



## For less than \$100



### keep jack frost at bay

Compact, lightweight and collapsible, the **seed house mini-greenhouse** is perfect for extending your gardening season. Use it indoors to start seeds, then outdoors to harden off veggie seedlings and protect plants from cold fall weather. With a base that measures 4 feet by 4 feet, the greenhouse is 34 inches tall and made of durable, waterproof, UV- and rip-resistant material. Plus, there are those three magic words: no assembly required. It takes just seconds to put up or take down.

**\$79.99**, [www.cleanairgardening.com](http://www.cleanairgardening.com)



### save space with tiered herb planter

If you've always seen yourself as an herb gardener but don't have much space, grab a bag of potting soil and say hello to the **pyramid planter**. Made in Europe of eco-friendly treated pine, the planter is easy to assemble, thanks to a clever design using simple notched boards. And it's tiered for maximum productivity in minimum space: 24 by 36 inches at the base and only 15 inches high. Go forth and be herbal!

**\$79.95**, [www.plowhearth.com](http://www.plowhearth.com)



### garden scooter gets great mileage

Sometimes gardening can be a real pain in the back, but not with the **Scout-N-Do Caddy**, which takes the strain out of weeding and cultivating veggies. Large pneumatic tires provide a comfortable ride. The swivel seat is adjustable, a steering knob makes turning a breeze, and a tray offers stow-and-go storage for tools and such. Approximately 3 feet long, 18 inches wide and 19 inches tall, it's made of 1-inch-diameter tubular steel with a rust-resistant finish. Vroom vroom!

**\$79.95**, [www.plowhearth.com](http://www.plowhearth.com)



### let the rain entertain

Move over, downspouts, there's a new kid in town: **copper rain chains**, which turn summer-afternoon deluges into works of art. These Asian-inspired marvels are both stylish and functional. This 8½-foot-long aged square-cup chain is engineered for maximum water flow, and the pure copper gradually acquires a lovely patina. You'll like the easy-to-install adaptor that fits existing gutter systems.

**\$99.95**, [www.rainchainsdirect.com](http://www.rainchainsdirect.com)



### grow tomatoes by the book

Want a textbook lesson in how to grow tomatoes? The **organic tomato success kit** does everything but start the seedlings for you. The kit includes a self-watering planter with a 4-gallon reservoir that provides a steady stream of water and nutrients; booster mulch; 40 quarts of organic container mix; 1 pound of organic fertilizer; and a top-fill tube with a water-level indicator. The planter measures 26 inches long, 10-¾ inches wide and 10-½ inches high and comes with a rust-resistant steel tomato cage that clips onto the planter. Tomato plants not included.

**\$69.95**, [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com)



### preserve those liquid assets

Collecting rainwater for your veggie garden is good for the environment and your budget. But where do you put it during that patio cocktail party? Anywhere you want, with this durable 60-gallon **collapsible rain barrel**. Just remove the rigid legs, and it's compact enough for easy storage. Made of three layers of UV-resistant laminated polyester, the barrel features a zippered lid that keeps out mosquitoes, yet allows access for a watering can when needed. It's 28 inches tall and 28 inches in diameter.

**\$79.95**, [www.kinsmangarden.com](http://www.kinsmangarden.com)