

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR GARDENERS

December – Christmas – Children – Gift Giving – What a wonderful month to think about our future gardeners. There are so many things advertised right now that it is mind boggling. Gifts for the pre school – early school crowd include story books, play sets of fruits and vegetables, games, gardening tools and many kits, such as ant farms and butterfly houses. For the older children, how about a house plant of their own. Spider plants, African violets, cactus and succulents are pretty easy first plants. Ornamental peppers are colorful and fun as are chia pets and pals. I'm sure most youth have seen the poinsettia flowers around in stores, churches and homes at this time of year. There is a legend about this Christ child's flower that would be fun to look up and share with your favorite youth. Or how about a pot, potting soil and some seeds, such as parsley, that could be started now in the house. Being the concerned adults that we are about our earth, another great gift that we can give to our future generation is to reduce, recycle and reuse. Even the smallest little ones can make Christmas cards using gifts of nature such as seeds, pods, pine cones, feathers, dried grasses, etc. as well as cutting pictures from old Christmas cards and catalogs. Add some beads and buttons, finish with some glitter glue and you have a one of a kind card for parents, teachers, siblings, grandparents or godparents. Whatever you do, enjoy the time spent this month with the children you encounter and be sure to share a story or two from your life with them.