Today on across the fence the gift of gardening from plants and tools to the newest master gardener course. Our gardening experts will share some great ideas for the budding green thumb on your holiday list. Good afternoon and thanks for joining us I am Judy Simpson. With me to start the program is UVM extension horticulturist Leonard Perry. Happy holidays to you. You're going to start out by showing us a plant that symbolizes the holiday season.

Leonard.: I guess you know which one this is that's the poinsettia but I brought a couple of different ones today that are not just your standard read and of course those are gorgeous. We'd like to thank Claussen's for providing these plants for us to show but this is one called jingle bells. As you know they have some white and the leaves here. These are actually we use their called braxis they are modified leaves. That's important because you want to look for those little yellow buds right in the center and have them not open. If they're totally open it's gone by little bit. You get the longest life from that of course in the front is not only a smaller one which is good for small spaces so you can get a lot more of them that way. It's called courtez burgundy. It's a really dark red one. There's paints and there's marble colors and white. A lot of different colors choose from other than red. Then there are a couple of other plants that I brought that are holiday plants you will find. The cullancho this bright orange one here in the front. That one likes warmer temperatures the poinsettia really likes warmer too. It doesn't like drafts and it doesn't like old and a dozen like to be over watered. Neither does the cullancho but none of these like to be over watered. That one tends to be more like a succulent cactus plant so it needs to be more on the dry side but warm. It comes in many colors to really bright colors. That's when you have some choices from then the cyclamen. This is one you see right through the wintertime. This is a more standard color of this white pinks. This is a good stage to buy this end with three buds open or flowers open and a lot of buds coming up. Look underneath the leaves to see if you see a lot of bugs. You don't want to see disease here. Keep the cyclamen at an even temperature and even moisture. It likes a little bit cooler if anything.

Judy.: You notice that these are all in foil it's important to make holes in the bottom of the foil.

Leonard.: That's a very good point because again if you don't make loan from the foil or when you water just lift them out of the foil and dump the water out otherwise they'll stay too wet and rot.
Judy.: Leonard has a lot more ideas to show us and if you're serious about giving the gift of gardening then you want to consider the UVM extension master gardener course. Joining us now is Nancy Hulett. Nancy is a master gardener program coordinator.

Nancy.: Thank you

Judy.: Who is the master gardener program for?

Nancy.: It's for anyone who has interests in gardening whether it is a novice or beginner or they consider themselves very experienced. The course covers all sorts of plants and soil science basics and gives the latest information on the latest trends a gardening and I think everybody has benefits from it that's what I hear has from over 200 students a year who take it.

Judy.: These are people who are professionals anybody can take the course.

Nancy.: Correct it's geared towards the home and community gardener we focus on all kinds of sustainable gardening practices so you'll have introductions to managing your entire property landscape but also you'll learn specifically about maintaining a healthy soil growing vegetables growing annuals and perennials the whole gamut.

Judy.: How does the program work?

Nancy.: The program is offered to everybody in every county all 14 counties have a classroom location and we have live instructors from the University of Vermont in a setting that is in a studio. It might be 20 to 15 students at a studio in their own county able to ask questions and interact in live time at the class.

Judy.: If people are interested in getting more information or registry and for the class what should they do?

Nancy.: They should either go on to our web site or call our office and our classes are going to be every Tuesday beginning February 7 for 13 weeks. The number is (802)-656-9562 or they can go on to our website its www.UVM.edu/master gardener.

Judy.: A great way to get yourself ready for the new gardening season coming up.

Nancy.: We end the first week of May so be ready and set to go.

Judy.: Excellent that's a great gift idea for yourself or someone who loves gardening thanks a lot Nancy. Leonard speaking of master gardeners you have a book idea people can order.

Leonard.: I do. This is one it's been out a while now but it's been updated fairly recently it's landscape plants for Vermont. It's by former Professor Norman pellet he studied woody plants for many years. If you like trees shrubs Vines in ground covers this is really the book for you in Vermont. Up it's very inexpensive you can get it right from the master gardener website.

Judy.: See you don't have to mess around with trying different plants and so forth it's all in here.
Leonard.: It's all in here and specially the hardiness. It's very reliable information on that I use it all the time.

Judy.: Thanks. Joining us now is Sarah Kingsley Richards who is a researcher at the UVM plants and soil science department. She often works with Leonard in gardening trials and studies. What are some of your favorite gifts for gardeners.

Sarah.: There's all sorts of course on the books scene and on the local books scene. We've got two books here by a local author one is a garden quiz book to test your gardening knowledge and the other one is a seasonal story of a garden by another local author. Also on the local theme we have some books. In your garden there's vegetables you try to do something with them so we have some cookbooks. Some of them are based season to season some of them are just focusing on local ingredients.

Judy.: It's always good in the winter time to look through a few of those to get some inspiration about what you might want to plant in the spring.

Sarah.: And their beautiful beautiful colors vegetables always look good.

Judy.: Excellent what else do we have?

Sarah.: Also if you're just looking for some basic instructional manuals you have the Vegetable gardeners bible and the flour partners viable which is part of a series of books that A to Z on either of those topics and again local Vermont authors.

Judy.: Excellent.

Leonard.: Then we have Judy one other bible that we really have to show here. This is very special for one thing I'm the author and the other thing is this is the first time this book has actually been seen in public.

Judy.: No kidding.

Leonard.: This is my copy it just came a couple days ago. It will be released January 1. It's the fruit gardeners bible and basically the name up top Lewis hill who's the flour gardeners bible. This is a rewrite of his 1992 book fruits and berries for the home garden. It's probably about 90 to 95% different a totally different format similar to the other ones. You can preorder it online or from bookstores. We'll be back to talk more about that later. Another show.

Judy.: Let's move on to tools and here because that's always my favorite thing to look at what's new.

Leonard.: Sarah has some that we both like over there.

Sarah.: Do we want to start tools? Let's do some gloves. That's kind of tools related. There's so many call a full options here and gloves these days. Up up up up a good pair of gloves that anybody could find a use for. Their little nicer gloves there in these fox gloves. They're very thin. They have knobs on the inside to give you some good grip. They're great for when you're doing fine until it can work. Then also a basic pair of gloves. These happen to have a plastic rubbbery so they do not get as soaking wet as some gloves would.
Leonard.: Then there's another version I like that does not get wet. Some of these are more and I kind of gloves I guess but they're very soft when you put your hand in and they're very warm for wintertime and again they have the rubberized. So if you're out in snow and slush it really keeps your hands try. A pair of gloves like this. Then one of my favorites I use during the season if you're dealing these are called rose gloves if you're dealing with pruning roses or brambles or anything with forms a pair of these they won't go through and will protect your arms.

Judy.: I like the bright colors to because they don't get lost. I have a goat who steals gloves.

Leonard.: I tend to leave mind down and forget it so yes bright colors help.

Judy.: Let's talk about some tools now.

Sarah.: You can always use a good trowel the goods therte nice handle and then some more basics would be a pair of pruners. Falco is the standard but there are a lot of other Brands out there. Something that is good and comfortable to hold and can stay sharp then something to carry around in a holster.

Judy.: Rather than just popping one of those in your pocket.

Sarah.: Yes I can get dangerous and always of course is watering cans. They always come in handy find one with a good balance and a nice head.

Judy.: It's nice to have a couple of different sizes so you're not always lugging around a big can.

Sarah.: Exactly. These ones are nice because the top comes off.

Leonard.: That little breaker on the end and a long spell out is what I like you can really reach in and get between plants. It's a good size for endorse to.

Sarah.: And they come in all sorts of fun colors we're on a color theme today.

Leonard.: Another one of the Falco line but you can get many kinds is this folding saw. It's very sharp th and it snaps and a place so are really holds. That's great to fold up and put in your pocket when you're out gardening in case you have that extra big branch. A folding pruning saw is very useful.

Sarah.: And those ones are nice they have a nice nonskid grip seer not going to slide into it with your hand.

Judy.: That's always good safety is important.

Leonard.: I guess going along with the glove thing are these things that are kind of rubberized but to slip your boots and when you come inside in other words say don't wrap mud in the house.

Judy.: So you don't take your goods off we just pop those on.
Leonard.: You just pop them in here if you need are run in and get a glass of water or something then you go out and don't have to take your boots or shoes off.

Judy.: Handy.

Sarah.: Also some twine. There's this nifty little twine dispenser. You can pop a ball of twine in here and just pull it out without getting into a tangled mess for holiday stocking stuffers I've seen some of these rainbow pack of twine. Not practical really but just fun.

Leonard.: If it's good twine you can color coded garden.

Judy.: You had a rake?

Leonard.: I have our rake here to show you. This is one of my favorite tools. I'll try not to knock things over but this you can see is kind of narrow that's good to get in between things but you can slide it out put that handle and it comes out. Fasten a tight or just look it back for storage. A very handy expandable rake. Then you have one Sarah.

Sarah.: I have another big tool here. This is one of my favorite tools. This is the hound dog stepping edger. The folded up for storage but what happens is it opens up with the handle of top.

Judy.: We should show this is what a looks like you can actually just at right on that. You don't have to bend over and step your way down along the edge you can get a quick shot of that. See isn't that convenient.

Leonard.: It really goes so quick I love it.

Sarah.: It just pivots along it's a wonderful edging tool.

Judy.: Good idea.

Leonard.: There are other things just back here to grab of course a big plastic barrel to hold things in that this is one of my favorites now it's a kneeling pad. There are many types of those. I have a lower rocks in my garden and I've really hit some of those on my knees so this really helps.

Judy.: We also have things for people like the birds.

Leonard.: We do and I guess you have one of our favorites.

Sarah.: Yes one of my favorite bird feeders is one of these mesh falls. You can fill it with sunflower seeds or even smaller seeds do tend to stay in. Any of your smaller songbirds will love to cling to the outside of this and peck away. These are amazingly popular.

Judy.: I think is really nice because they have different colors so you can hang a few in a tree and they look like Christmas bulbs.

Leonard.: The birds just love mine of all the different feeders they go to that one 1st. Then as far as wintertime of course you want to keep water out for them. There are heated bird baths then there are these bath de-icers. You can put it in plug it in and of course using the
right chords their grounded receptacles specially outside. This will keep the water just above freezing so the birds can have water.

Judy.: They've really appreciate that.

Leonard.: So that's neat and here's one that I found this year that I'm going to try. One of the problems with suet feeders a lot of people have sewer is the big birds. Woodpeckers and smaller birds they just us out of house and home. This one you see on the bottom has a suet part in the top opens up to put it in and this actually hangs so the birds like the woodpeckers back and feed upside down hang here and get at it. But crackles and other birds that you don't necessarily want their cannot get at it. I'm going to try that this year.

Sarah.: Also very easy to pop a new cake of suet in.

Leonard.: Exactly it is open enough to put it in and close it.
Judy.: That's my thing not logistically challenging like some of the other ones are. What about the weather?

Leonard.: Whether there's one thing we have a good rain gauge always good and they're inexpensive ones and wireless ones like I like but then another wireless thing is is temperature unit here. Just make sure if you get one the way it works basically put the receiver out somewhere where you want and you can just look at inside to see the temperature high and low. Just make sure it has the range that you want like me if you're like me out in a small greenhouse it has to be a 100 foot range and 50 foot won't work and that it goes low enough some of these do not go low and in Vermont if you're in a cold area 0° isn't going to cut suet needs to go lower. Those are a couple things but the wireless really come in handy and our fun Toys.

Judy.: It looks like there's some other smaller gifts that anybody can use?

Sarah.: There's always a ornaments little garden themed ornaments and pots. There's a lot of activities these days in these new ego planters that are biodegradable to so you don't necessarily need to worry about what you're going to do about it when you're done with it they'll eventually break down.. I know Leonard likes to use them as gifts.

Leonard.: What I do actually is instead of a basket I put some of these garden gifts in one of those a big one and give it to somebody. They have a useful pot plus all the gifts.

Judy.: Good ideas. There's also creams of course that's terrific. Some really good ideas up over list together.

Leonard.: Yes and like to thank gardener's supply and inter veil for providing these for us a look at and again Claussen’s for the plants to look at.

Judy.: Once again our thanks to Claussen’s in Colchester and gardener's supply in Williston and Burlington. That's our program for today thanks for joining us I am Judy Simpson we'll see you again next time on across the fence.

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