

how does the garden grow?

With these terrific tools, handy helpers and easy-to-use accessories. BY DIANE SPERO



1 WATER WIZARD

The Ames Water Genie (aka: The Bottomless Watering Can) looks like a conventional can but actually houses a 40-foot integrated hose that retracts automatically for easy storage, plus an adjustable spray nozzle. Lighter than a full-gallon can, it offers go-anywhere convenience. homedepot.com



5 MAKE YOUR BED

Now from Art of the Garden, the M Bed is a complete bed kit that easily adjusts to your space and sets up with no tools required! With braces adjustable up to 16 feet, you simply lay your own wood, slide it into corners, fill with soil and plants. Brackets come in decorative designs, too. artofthegarden.net, 530-662-2224



3 OH SO SMOOTH

Put a gardener's fix or her jet rose pruner, and there's one likely to top the list. The prize at the New York Botanical Garden agrees, which is why the Rose Stem Cleaner is one of the most popular items in the Garden's online shop. It is fitted with a spring-action handle that prevents thorns from scratching hands, and finger supports ensure it secures, non-slip grip. Stems stay intact thanks to metal blades that reduce tearing and swelling. Item B441A06 nybg.org



2 CHASING THE SUN

You certainly have an idea of the sun spots in your garden, but do you know the exact amount of sun you can plant with confidence? The Sun-Calc from Thompson & Morgan eliminates the guesswork. Insert the unit into a soil-filled pot and place it where you want to plant. Press the power switch on the side to activate the LED lights on the faceplate—they'll flash every 2 seconds as sunlight data accumulates. After 24 hours of continuous operation, only one LED light will flash to indicate a reading of full or partial sun, or full or partial shade, so you can plant accordingly. Item BM42093 tmseeds.com, 800-274-7333



4 PRUNING ESSENTIALS

These three tools, from Felco, take on most gardening tasks. Available at better garden stores. **A** The Felco 2 is the top-selling basic pruner, but there are also versions for left-handers and ones with twisting blades for awkward angles. **B** Loppers reach higher branches and also make it easier to cut thicker ones. This model is the 200C-50. **C** The 620 saw can cut back serious overgrowth right from the base; it is essential for tree maintenance. It comes with a protective sheath.

6 NO DIGGING REQUIRED

Planting flower bulbs has never been easier or faster than with Gardener's Supply Company's new power bulb planter. Simply attach the stainless steel cylinder to any standard power drill and it creates 2-inch diameter planting holes up to 9 inches deep. Your back will thank you! Item 8306-342 gardeners.com, 888-833-1412

