

Make Mom happy with gardening tools

ANDOVER, Mass., April 22, /PRNewswire/ -- With Mother's Day being the biggest day of the year for flower sales, and gardening becoming an increasingly popular pastime, putting a twist on the traditional gift of flowers with a gift of garden accessories is a great way to make mom's day. According to a recent survey conducted for the National Gardening Association, nearly three out of four U.S. households (74 percent) participated in one or more types of do-it-yourself indoor and outdoor lawn and garden activities in 1994.

Household spending on gardening activities rose 10 percent during that year. As this trend grows in popularity, Mother's Day is the perfect opportunity for mothers to get their hands dirty this summer! Many moms prefer planting flowers to receiving cut flowers that wither quickly. Another trend increasing among gardeners is herb growing. In fact, more than 10 percent of all households grow herbs for cooking or naturopathic health purposes.

With so many people shoveling and planting, a wide variety of gardening products are available in stores this spring. Brightly painted ceramic pottery, unique wooden decorations—even window sill herb and flower gardens—will kick-off summer with Mother's Day. Shopping for gardening acces-

sories at an off-price store like Marshalls makes gift giving affordable for even the youngest of mom's fans. For store locations, call 1-800-MARSHALLS. Children will love watching flowers grow and playing "gardener." Following are some creative and inexpensive gift ideas that are sure to sprout creativity. Personalized gifts, especially for Mother's Day, make very popular gifts.

-- The Indoor Garden: Gardens can be enjoyed both indoors and out with do-it-yourself gardening kits for 20-60 percent off specialty and department store prices. Try a single bulb in a colored glass bottle to brighten up the window sill, or a complete herb kit so moms can grow their own seasonings.

-- Lots of Pots: Painted with bright flowers and other country designs, these original pottery pieces come in a variety of sizes and make great containers for not only plants, but garden tools and kitchen utensils as well!

-- Gardening Goody Basket: Kids can combine efforts and put a basket of useful goodies to satisfy all gardening needs. Fill a large terra cotta gardening pot with everything mom will need for a day of digging in the sun. A hat for sun protection, a pair of gloves, bulbs to plant, a trowel, and decorative knick-knacks to add personality to her perennials.

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Screen out pesky visitors

A damaged window or door screen could cause countless hours of scratching and swatting pesky insects that may come in through the holes.



Replacing the screening on a door or window is a quick and easy do-it-yourself project. The whole replacement should cost no more than \$10 and should be finished in about an hour.

Fiberglass screening is especially suited for coastal areas since it will not corrode, rust or dent. It is vinyl coated for strength and durability.

Aluminum screening is also rust-proof. Although it is more expensive than fiberglass, it is stronger and less likely to sag or tear. It comes in three colors: bright or natural finish, charcoal or black.

Both types of screening are replaced the same way. Before you replace the screen, you need to remove the damaged portion from the aluminum frame.

Pray the vinyl spline from the grooves around the edge of the frame with a screwdriver. Retain the old spline, if it is still flexible or replace it with a new spline, which sells for approximately \$1.50.

Stretch the new screen fabric tightly over the frame so that it overlaps the

retaining grooves. Use a spline roller to press the spline and screen into the grooves. Cut away the excess screen fabric with a utility knife.

"If you have a large piece of screen left over, save it for future replacements. Pre-rolled screening is large enough to replace an average door,"

says Sanford Maltman, Home Depot building materials associate.

Use the concave roller of the splining tool to force the spline and screening into the groove. Use short, firm strokes. Cut off the excess spline and screen material.

To replace the screening in the wooden frame, remove the strips covering the screen edge and take off the screen. Unroll the new screening vertically and staple in place. To finish, nail or track the wooden strips back to the screen frame, covering the edges.

If the wooden strips are corroded, you should replace them as well. "If no heavy objects, like a baseball, come in contact with your new screen, it should last about 10 years," Maltman said.

To do this job you'll need a utility knife, hammer, spline roller, screwdriver, screen material, spline material and stapler.