WASHINGTON
gardener

the magazine for gardening enthusiasts in the Mid-Atlantic region

Plant Profile: Echinacea

Behind the Scenes at Brookside's Butterfly Exhibit

The Best Time to Plant Your Shallots

Meet Mark Mills, MoCo Young Farmer

Why Aren't Your Hydrangeas Blooming?

DC-MD-VA Gardening Events Calendar

Newest Garden Products Reviewed

Getting to the Root of Sunchokes

A TRIO OF NEW GARDENING PRODUCTS

By Alexandra Marquez

Centurion Collapsible Bucket and Collapsible Watering Can

Bucket List Price: $25.00
Order Link: https://amzn.to/2ZbBtdQ
and
Watering Can List Price: $30.00
Order Link: https://amzn.to/31GKAoC
This collapsible bucket and collapsible watering can are each made to work well and store easily. The bucket is made of alternating silicone and plastic layers that fold into each other, so when collapsed, the product is 2–3 inches tall. It also has a pour spout at one spot, to make pouring water and other liquids easy.

The watering can (*pictured on page 3*), on the other hand, stays tall, but skinny. The plastic exo-skeleton is colorful and features a handle and spout. The middle is a clear, flexible plastic that fills with water and when empty, slims down to less than the width of the exterior shape. The shower head at the top of the spout is removable, and snaps into place when on.

Overall, the two are convenient products for gardeners with limited space for tools, but an unlimited love of gardening.

My Gardening Journal

List Price: $12.99
Order Link: https://amzn.to/2Hcr9Mz
"My Gardening Journal," published by Quiet Fox Designs from Fox Chapel Publishing, introduces a cute and colorful system to help you keep track of the plants in your garden. The first few pages include maps that demonstrate the most-extreme minimum temperatures in your region, a checklist of garden tools you may need, a compost bin record that helps you keep track of turning days, and a guide to purchasing the best plants in your environment.

There are other pages with graph paper so you can draw out your garden each season and indicate what plants are growing where and a space to keep track of problems with pests and plant diseases each year. The bulk of the journal helps you keep track of four years worth of each plant's life, so you can check back each year and monitor how a plant's growth compares to last year's.

This journal seems like a good tool for beginner, intermediate, and advanced gardeners hoping to keep better track of their gardens and monitor the status of their gardens and plants year to year. The journal's design is aesthetically pleasing and colorful, and includes cute designs on each page, which is also enticing.

Post-It Extreme Notes

List Price: $6.99
Order Link: https://amzn.to/31IMCo5
These sticky notes are advertised as indoor/outdoor, multi-use pieces of paper that "stick in tough conditions" and "stick to a variety of surfaces including wood, steel, brick, cement, and more." They are water-resistant and use "dura-hold" paper and adhesive. The sample that we received was in the company's new XL size, but they come in smaller sizes as well. Their material is reminiscent of masking tape or painter's tape, just without the adhesive covering the entire surface area of one side. They come in a variety of bright colors, which makes them easy to spot against a background of soil and plants and can be used in a variety of ways in the garden, including for making lists, labeling plants, and keeping track of seedlings. We tested writing with a ballpoint pen, a pencil, and a permanent marker on the sticky notes and the permanent marker worked best. The pen showed up well, too, but the pencil was definitely more faint. 🌿

Alexandra Marquez is a rising junior journalism and anthropology major at the University of Maryland. She is an editorial intern at *Washington Gardener* this summer

Note: These product reviews include links to Amazon for ordering them. *Washington Gardener* Magazine may receive a few cents from each order placed after accessing them.