

“Pot Bottom” Solves Water Problems With Potted Plants

Tired of putting rocks, tin cans, or other stuff in the bottom of potted plants? If so, you'll like the Flow 'n Grow disc that goes into the bottom of plant pots to solve water drainage problems.

It consists of a layer of plastic beads sandwiched between layers of tightly woven, yet porous and rot-resistant fabric with a fold-up skirt around the outer edge.

You place it in the bottom of the pot, making sure the skirt lays as flat as possible against the inside wall. Excess water flows through the fabric with no danger of plugging the drainage holes.

“It works like a coffee pot filter,” says Larry Connelly, FNG Products, Houston, Texas. “It works better than using gravel or small rocks because dirt can still filter down through. Also, the gravel can get mixed up with the soil and prevent water from moving laterally through the soil, which results in too much water at the bottom of the container. Another advantage is that it helps prevent messy decks or patios by keeping soil and roots inside the container.”

Comes in three sizes to fit containers from 12 to 40 in. in diameter. The smallest size fits 12 to 19-in. dia. containers; the next size 20 to 31-in.; and the largest 32 to 40-in. To determine the size you need, measure the diameter of the pot at the top opening.

Prices range from \$4.60 for the smallest size to \$10 for the largest one.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, FNG Products, Inc., 1013 Van Buren, Houston, Texas 77019 (ph 866 356-4769; fax 713 522-9775; E-mail: info@flowngrow.com; Website: www.flowngrow.com).



Flow 'n Grow disc goes into bottom of plant pot. It consists of a layer of plastic beads sandwiched between layers of tightly woven, yet porous fabric with a fold-up skirt around the outer edge.

New line of gardening tools has a rubber cuff that fits over the lower arm, keeping your wrist straight and harnessing upper-arm strength.



“Less Fatigue” Garden Tools Use Upper Arm

You can dig all day long with this new line of gardening tools designed to give more leverage to the user with less stress and strain.

The tools have a rubber cuff that fits over the lower arm, keeping your wrist straight and harnessing upper-arm strength. In effect, the tool becomes an extension of your arm.

Three tools are available: a trowel, hoe, and cultivator. They sell for \$12.95 apiece plus S&H.

The company also offers pruning saws and shrub rakes equipped with the same cuff and handle system.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Earth Bud-Eze, 880 SW 15th St., Suite 2, Forest Lake, Minn. 55025 (ph 877 504-9800 or 651 464-1377; fax 651 464-1359; E-mail: info@earthbudeze.com; Website: www.earthbudeze.com/welcome.html).

Device Identifies Birds By Their Song

Ever heard a bird song you couldn't identify?

If so, you'll like this new hand-held device that's called an “audio birdsong dictionary”.

The BirdSong IdentiFlyer™ resembles a TV remote, with 10 buttons along the sides. When you hear a bird sing, press the buttons on the unit until it plays a song that matches. Next to the button is a color picture of the bird you have identified.

“I'm a backyard birder,” company owner Terry Allen says. “I got hooked on it while living in Connecticut and watching birds that came to our bird feeder. There were so many different kinds, I was always having to page through big, thick field guides to identify them. I decided to make something that would be a lot more convenient.”

He ran into someone who was trying to develop a “talking” baseball card with both printed and recorded information. That prompted him to develop the bird photo card with recorded songs.

“Our BirdSong IdentiFlyer is smaller than a field guide, so it's easier to carry with you. And with the recorded songs, it makes identification more complete,” he says.

The Allens acquired the rights to use birdsong recordings made by Lang Elliott, well-known in birding circles for his high quality recordings made in the bird's natural habitat. Pictures are by noted bird artists Barry van Dusen and Mike DiGiorgio.

The BirdSong IdentiFlyer comes with two SongCards, an earphone, a pocket guidebook and three AAA batteries.

The Allens have put together 13 birdsong/picture cards including Yardbirds - Series 1 and Series 2, both of which are included with the device. Other titles include Birds of the Night, Forest, Field and Meadow, Sea Shore, Songbirds of the South and The Calling Card, which features calls birds use to attract other birds. Fabulous Frogs was added recently.

The BirdSong IdentiFlyer can be purchased in most wild bird supply stores across the U.S. and Canada for about \$35 (U.S.) Additional sound cards sell for \$9.95 apiece.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Terry or Jeanne Allen, For The Birds, Box 1731, Seneca, S.C. 29679-1731 (ph 877 261-6556 or 864 944-5673; E-mail: terry@identiflyer.com; Website: http://www.identiflyer.com).



When you hear a bird sing, press the buttons on the hand-held unit until it plays a song that matches. Next to the button is a color picture of the bird you have identified.

“Spongy Wonder” Bicycle Seat

If you like to ride bikes but can't stand the seats they use nowadays, you're not alone. Inventor Jeff Dixon of Riverview, New Brunswick, says his new “sponge seat” solves the problem.

The “Spongy Wonder” mounts in place of most any bike seat. The one-piece unit has a pair of 3 1/2-in. wide, 1 1/8-in. thick replaceable pads made from closed cell neoprene foam. The pads are set at an adjustable angle, and the distance between them can also be adjusted. Seat height is adjusted using the original clamp that holds the seat post to the bicycle frame.

“It's the most comfortable seat on the market, and you can adjust it to fit your own comfort level,” says Dixon. “It doesn't put any damaging pressure on the tailbone and solves the problem of nerve and artery damage caused by single platform bicycle seats. A lot of people tell me they stopped riding bikes because the seats are so uncomfortable. But now they're riding again thanks to this seat. The pads don't absorb water. A thinner and firmer pad that's 3/4 in. thick is also available.”

Sells for \$80 (Canadian) including S&H.
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Spongy Wonder, Inc., 2 Woodside Drive, Riverview, New Brunswick, Canada E1B 4G9 (ph 877 977-7328).



“It's the most comfortable seat on the market, and you can adjust it to fit your own comfort level,” says the manufacturer of the new “Spongy Wonder” bicycle seat.

Reader Recipes

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Boil potatoes and onion in just enough water to cover. When tender, add milk, salt, and pepper, then reheat. In small skillet, brown flour in butter and slowly blend into potato mixture. Add a bit of water to beaten egg and slowly stir into soup. Let simmer a few minutes to thicken. Stir often to keep from sticking. Garnish bowls of soup with chopped green onions, parsley, or grated carrots.
Backwoods Home

Carmelized Onion Blue Cheese Dip

4 oz. shallots
1 tablespoon veg. oil
3/4 cup sour cream
3/4 cup mayonaisse
4 oz. blue cheese

Cook shallots in oil for 20 min. Blend all ingredients.
Refrigerate 2 hrs. to blend flavors. Serve cold or room temp.
*Mark Newhall
Lakeville, Minn.*

Ice Cream Muffins

1 1/2 cups enriched self-rising flour
OR
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
2 1/4 teaspoons baking powder
3/4 teaspoon salt
2 cups vanilla ice cream, melted (flavored ice cream optional)
3/4 cup cinnamon, chocolate, or peanut butter chips.

Measure dry ingredients into a medium bowl. Stir in ice cream just until flour is moistened. Stir in chips. Spray muffin cups with non-stick spray and fill cups 3/4 full. Bake in a preheated 350° oven 20 min. or until golden brown. Makes 10 muffins.
*North Dakota
Wheat Commission*