

# HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

 **22** SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

## WHAT TO BUY THE GARDENING ENTHUSIAST

**F**or the gardeners in your life, gardening gloves are certain to be used. (President Obama spent a mere \$4.99 on a pair for the First Lady during his June visit to Toledo.) Add a big amaryllis bulb that will bloom in 6 to 10 weeks, and tide them over to the far side of winter. To ramp it up, tuck them into a big, classy pot (make sure it has holes in the bottom). Here are some more ideas.

— By Tahree Lane  
BLADE STAFF WRITER



Outdoor thermometers come in all sizes and styles. This one, with a pair of cardinals, is \$9.99; others range from \$1.59 to \$28.99 at The Andersons.



Gardeners don't need a handout but a hand up sure is nice. When, heaven forbid, your garden boy's not around, use the Garden Odyssey Kneeler/Bench. \$24.99. Black Diamond Garden Centers.



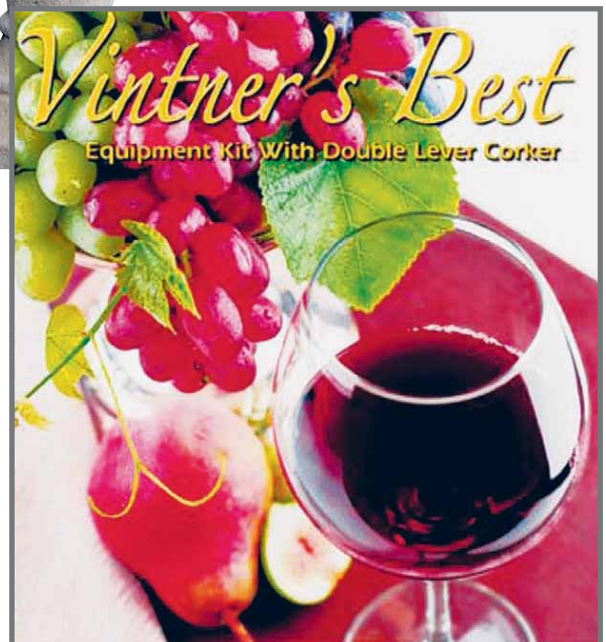
Nothing's easier to care for than succulents. In a beautiful container, they can survive in even the most hostile workplace environment, only asking for some light and a drink every couple of weeks. Buy them ready made or select your own plants, such as agave, aloe, haworthia, mini-sansevieria, sedum, and echeveria. \$10.99 to \$49.99. Hoen's Greenhouse.



Terrariums and miniature "conservatory" gardens bring the fairy garden trend inside. They can be created in a fish bowl, aquarium, or a miniature glass house, and accessorized with gnomes (first cousins to North Pole elves) or a tiny Buddha. Pictured here is an \$89.99 conservatory garden planted with ferns, baby tears, and pilea. \$24.99 to \$149 at Hoen's Greenhouse. (Note: Hoen's will have a terrarium class in January.)



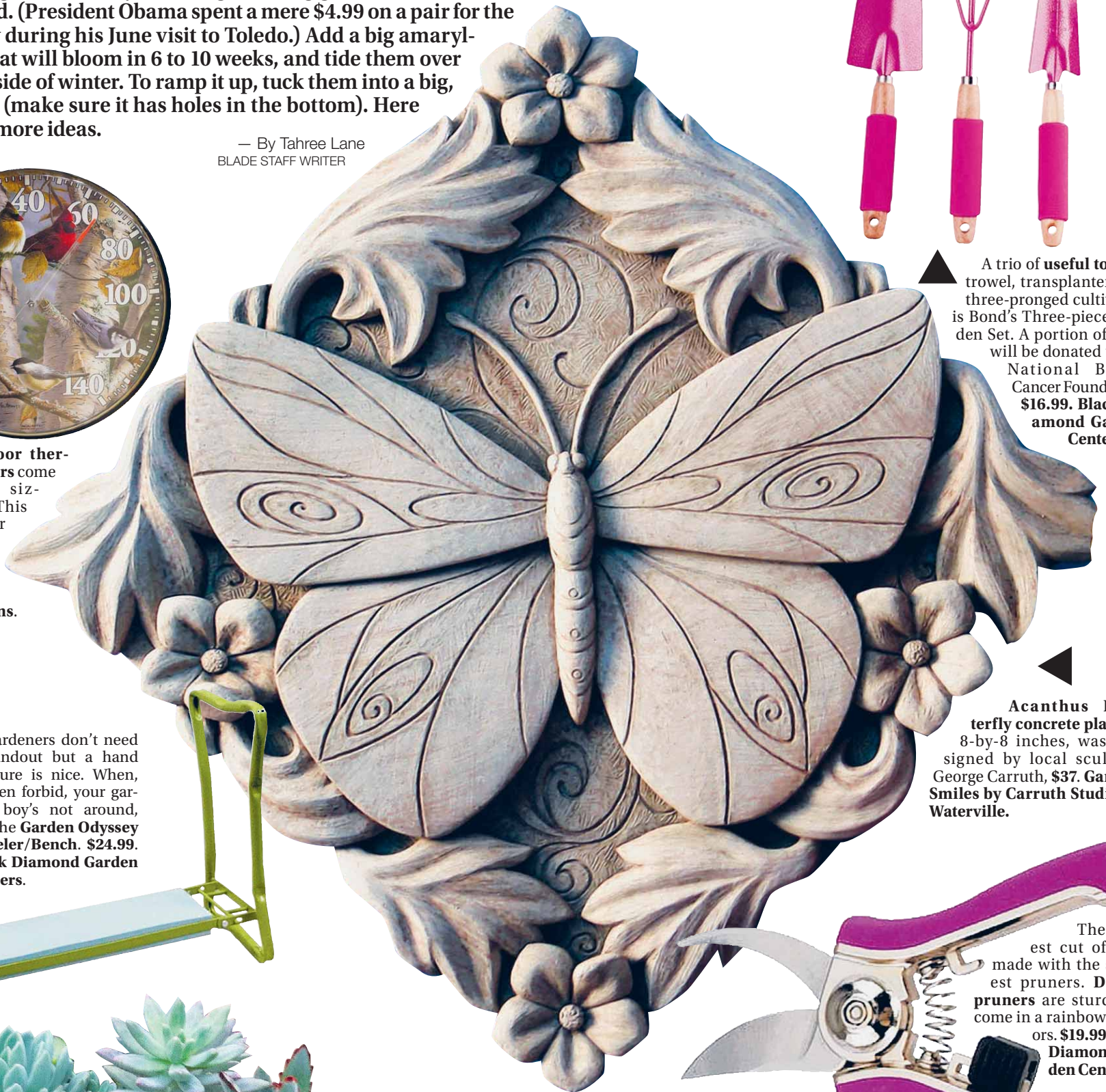
Made out of recycled plastic, this durable fly-through feeder can accommodate any bird. The Going Green Platform Feeder is 12¾-by-12¾-by-2½ inches. Different seeds attract different birds. \$24.99. Titgemeier's Feed and Garden Store.



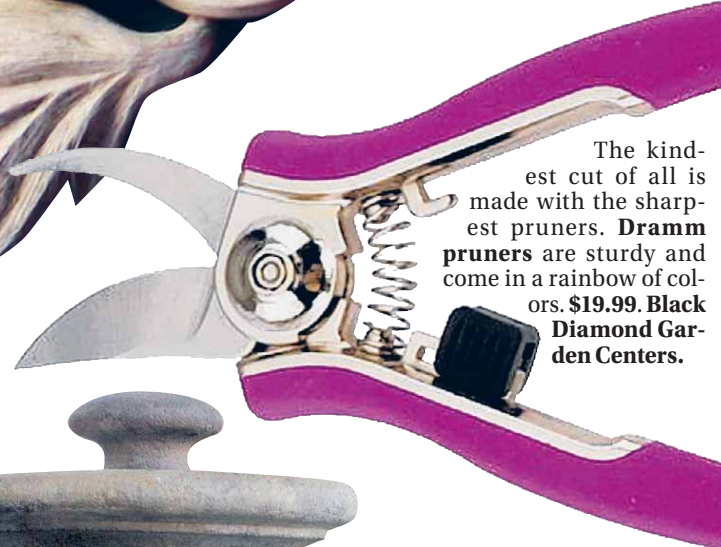
Turn your tomatoes, rhubarb, apples, pears, onions, and yes, even grapes, into wine with the Vintner's Best Wine Equipment Kit. An ideal starter kit, instructions walk you through making one gallon of wine. Included is a book with scores of recipes, wine yeast, sodium campden tablets, tubing, and more. \$38.99. Titgemeier's Feed and Garden Store.



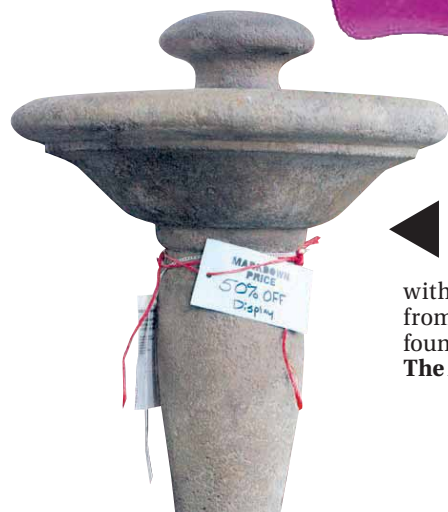
A trio of useful tools (a trowel, transplanter, and three-pronged cultivator) is Bond's Three-piece Garden Set. A portion of sales will be donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. \$16.99. Black Diamond Garden Centers.



Acanthus Butterfly concrete plaque, 8-by-8 inches, was designed by local sculptor George Carruth, \$37. Garden Smiles by Carruth Studio in Waterville.



The kindest cut of all is made with the sharpest pruners. Dramm pruners are sturdy and come in a rainbow of colors. \$19.99. Black Diamond Garden Centers.



Fountains that were 2011 floor models are 50 percent off, with sale prices ranging from \$100 to \$185. Other fountains begin at \$100 at The Andersons.