

what's new

www.GardenGateStore.com

Many of these products (and more!) at our online store.

Nelson Easy Klik

Just one click of the yellow button on the Easy Klik® nozzle and the water starts flowing, another click and it stops. No more tired hands from squeezing the handle while you water your plants. This model has seven spray patterns, ranging from a light mist to power wash. And you can control the flow of water with the lever on the back. The molded grip has a nonslip surface and is a lot more comfortable to hang onto than those old metal sprayers.

Bottom line It's so easy to use, you won't mind watering the garden.

Source Local hardware stores

Price \$12.00



PHOTOS: Courtesy of Bosch Garden & Watering (Nelson Easy Klik); Dennis Kennedy (water bag); Courtesy of Storey Publishing (book)

Water Bag

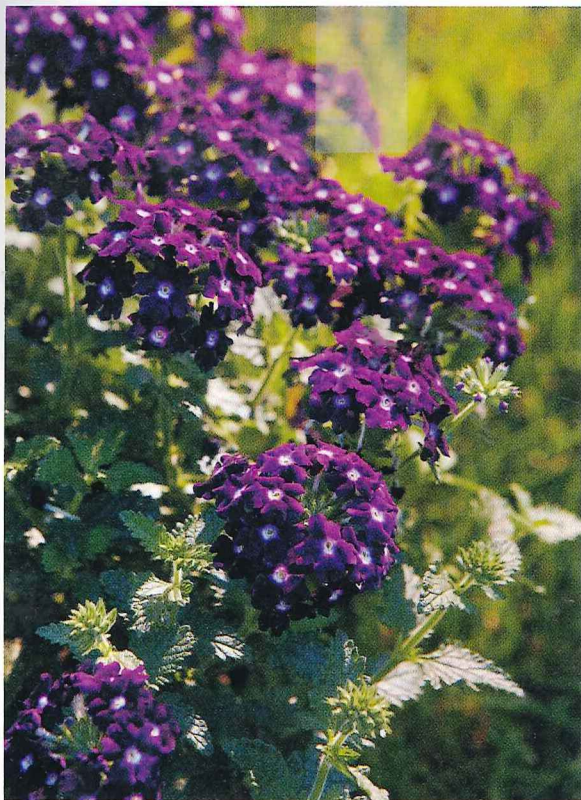
It's no fun dragging a hose or lugging buckets of water out to garden beds at the far end of the yard. Get one of these new Water Bags and you'll find watering those faraway spots is a lot easier. The bag is made of a heavy 10-mil plastic and holds up to 21 gallons of water. So it weighs 176 pounds when it's full, which was heavy but not unmanageable in our wheelbarrow. If you have a two-wheel cart it would probably be even easier. The bag, which measures 35 inches long, 24 inches wide and 6 inches deep, fit neatly in the tray. The nonslip mat keeps it from sliding out as the water empties. Once the watering is done, the Water Bag folds up for storage.

Bottom line An easier way to water plants when your hose isn't long enough.

Source Lee Valley Garden Tools at www.leevalley.com or 800-871-8158

Price \$9.95



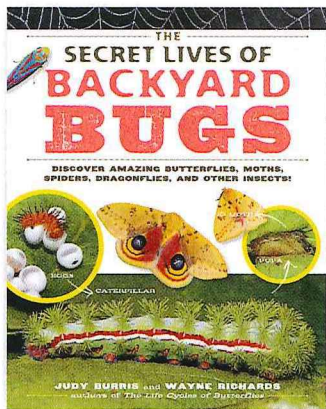


Aztec Blue Velvet verbena

We were struck by the rich blue-purple of this new verbena. It's stunning! Blue Velvet is a new color in the Aztec™ series, which is known for its early flowering and excellent powdery mildew resistance. Trailing over the edge of containers, the ones in our test garden performed well all summer. Blue Velvet grows 8 to 10 inches tall and 12 to 18 inches wide. It's cold-hardy in USDA zones 8 to 11 and heat-tolerant in AHS zones 12 to 1.

Bottom line Luscious new verbena color.

Source Local garden centers



The Secret Lives of Backyard Bugs

We all know that insects have several stages in their life cycles, and they don't look the same in each one. But most of us don't know exactly what a mantid egg case looks like or how a lightning bug looks as larva. This cool book walks you through how many common insects and spiders look in their different stages — so now you can squash a bad bug or let a beneficial one live with some confidence that you're doing the right thing! We especially enjoyed the egg, larva and pupa comparisons.

Bottom line Take a closer look at your garden with this book's help — it's a fascinating world out there!

Source Local and online bookstores or www.GardenGateStore.com

Price \$14.95; softcover; 136 pages

did you know?

Good-for-you gardening

You've been working hard to make your garden beautiful, but all that hard work is making *you* look better, too! Did you know that weeding burns approximately 371 calories an hour? Mowing the lawn with a power mower burns about 306 calories an hour and digging, 340 calories. For more activities and the calories they burn, check out <http://caloriecount.about.com>.

Bitter cucumbers?

Mmm, cucumbers (*Cucumis sativus*) fresh from the garden are a great way to round out a salad. But have you noticed that sometimes they taste bitter? It comes from cucurbitacin, a compound usually found just in the stems, roots and leaves of the plant. Occasionally it spreads into the fruit. When that happens, it's more concentrated at the stem end.

Researchers aren't entirely sure what causes some fruit to be more bitter than others but think that stress and cool growing seasons may be factors. For tasty cucumbers keep plants watered, feed them regularly and grow the right varieties. Modern cultivars, such as 'Ashley', 'Improved Long Green' and 'Lemon', were less prone to bitterness in tests conducted by Washington State University.

Water woes

Even though it might not look great, a browning lawn is usually nothing to worry about. According to Cornell University horticulture professor Frank Rossi, most lawn grasses can survive four to six weeks without water. Frequent light watering in hot weather actually encourages weeds and disease.

What does need water are your trees and shrubs. Be sure they get about an inch of water per week whether it's from rain or your hose.