



26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Give a sustainable gift that grows with British Garden Centres' top plant picks

Thoughtful gifting is evolving, with more people choosing plants over cut flowers, buying living gifts that can last months or even years rather than just a few days. While cut flowers look beautiful for a week, living plants keep growing, providing colour, interest and enjoyment season after season. They are kinder to the planet too, with many varieties lasting for years, often supplied in recyclable pots and frequently grown in Britain, helping to reduce air miles and support UK growers. The team at British Garden Centres has put together ideas of living gifts for every occasion, from compact roses and elegant orchids to ready-to-go pre-planted planters, showcasing why living gifts are set to bloom in popularity throughout 2026.

**Roses:** Choose from bare root roses for traditional garden planting or potted patio varieties that are ready to go straight away. Potted roses flower again and again with a lovely scent and work beautifully on patios or balconies. Miniature roses are perfect for windowsills. Whether it's a bare root for a keen gardener or a potted patio rose for someone with limited space, they're ideal for anniversaries or saying thank you properly.

**Orchids:** The classic Phalaenopsis orchids come in white, pink or purple and flower for months. Dendrobium varieties give you those pretty sprays of delicate blooms. They're easier to keep going than most people think, and are the perfect gift for a loved one, friend, teacher, or just to show someone your appreciation.

**Houseplants:** Peace lilies forgive you if you forget to water them and clean the air. Snake plants are brilliant in bedrooms. Pothos trails beautifully down shelves. Rubber plants make a real statement with those big, glossy leaves. Parlour palms bring that tropical feel without the hassle.

**Pre-planted arrangements:** These arrive looking the business and are perfect for instant impact in the garden, windowsill or patio. Winter violas with ivy, spring bulb collections, summer displays with vibrant bedding plants, autumn heathers, or mixed herbs for the kitchen windowsill. Whatever the taste and their gardening skill, we have the gift for the special occasion that will bring a smile to any face.

**Garden stalwarts:** These are permanent gifts that establish and improve year after year. Dwarf holly produces masses of glossy red berries from November through February, perfect for adding winter interest to gardens or large



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pots. Hebes provide evergreen structure and produce flower spikes in summer with minimal maintenance. Lavender flowers profusely from June to August, attracts pollinators, and can be harvested for drying, whilst azaleas deliver spectacular spring displays with masses of blooms in vivid pinks, reds, purples or whites. All come back bigger and better the next year and make a stunning long-term gift for dedicated gardeners.

**Herbs:** Why not give the gift of aroma and taste? Pots of rosemary, thyme, basil, chives, mint or parsley are perfect for the kitchen windowsill or patio. Cooks love these because there's something genuinely satisfying about snipping fresh herbs straight into the pan rather than buying those sad plastic packets from the supermarket. Rosemary and thyme are evergreen, so they keep going through winter. Basil brings that summer Mediterranean flavour, whilst mint is perfect for mojitos, teas or new potatoes. They're practical gifts that get used almost daily and smell incredible when you brush past them.

**Succulents and Cacti:** Perfect gifts for busy people, students, or anyone who's killed a few houseplants in their time. Echeveria forms gorgeous rosettes in silvery blues and greens, whilst jade plants develop into little trees with thick, glossy leaves and can live for decades. String-of-pearls trails beautifully down shelves with those distinctive bead-like leaves. They all cope brilliantly if you forget to water them for weeks. Low maintenance, architectural, and nearly impossible to kill, these are perfect gifts ideal for desks, shelves, bedrooms or anywhere that needs a bit of greenery without the fuss.

**Potted Bulbs:** These make foolproof gifts because they arrive ready to bloom, so there is no digging, no waiting, just instant results. Hyacinths perfume entire rooms with their intense fragrance in pink, white or deep blue. Paperwhites produce clusters of elegant white flowers, blooming dependably through winter. Potted daffodils and narcissi bring that hit of yellow to windowsills weeks before the garden wakes up, whilst tulips deliver classic bold blooms in reds, pinks, purples or yellows. Crocuses are charming in small pots, perfect for desks with their delicate flowers, whilst grape hyacinths have distinctive clustered blue flowers and a sweet honey scent.

**Fruit:** These are gifts that literally keep giving. Blueberry bushes in pots produce handfuls of sweet berries from July through September and put on a brilliant autumn colour show with red and orange foliage. Strawberry plants keep fruiting from June right through to October with ever-bearing varieties, perfect for patios or balconies. Dwarf lemon or orange trees suit conservatories or sunny spots indoors, producing fragrant white blossoms and actual fruit you



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can pick. They're practical gifts that deliver beauty, scent and fresh harvests, ideal for foodies, keen cooks or anyone who loves the idea of growing their own.

**Julian Palphramand, Head of Plants at British Garden Centres,** said: "People want their gifts to mean something beyond the moment. These plants keep growing, keep giving, and many will still be thriving years from now. That's a proper gift, something sustainable that becomes part of someone's home or garden. Whether it's snipping fresh herbs for dinner, watching orchids rebloom, or picking their own strawberries, these gifts create joy again and again. And with this range, there's genuinely something perfect for everyone."

**ENDS**

**WORD COUNT: 921**

**Notes to Editors:**

About the business:

British Garden Centres (BGC) is the UK's largest family-owned garden centre group with 73 centres around the country. The group is owned and led by the Stubbs family, who also own and operate Woodthorpe Leisure Park in Lincolnshire.

BGC was launched in 1987 with the opening of Woodthorpe Garden Centre by brothers Charles and Robert Stubbs. Since 2018, it has expanded rapidly with the acquisition of 50 garden centres, allowing it to grow from its heartland to the business it is now, with 73 garden centres spread from Carmarthen to Ramsgate, Wimborne to East Durham.

The group has a team of 3000 colleagues working across the garden centres, restaurants, 2 growing nurseries, 4 distribution centres, Woodthorpe Leisure Park, and Woody's Restaurant & Bar.

**Social Media**

Facebook: British Garden Centres

Twitter: @BGCentres

Instagram: @BritishGardenCentres

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