

# INSPECT-A-GADGET

Just in the nick of time for your Christmas wish list, Al Chomica shares his favourite garden tools.



## Compost Thermometer

A compost pile should reach an interior temperature of 140° F to effectively kill weed seeds and pathogens. If the pile is not reaching this temperature, adjustments can easily be made to its moisture content, pH, aeration, etc., to bring it up to the proper temperature. Although you can stick your hand into the pile to see if it is "hot" or not, that is not a reliable measure.

### Why Al Loves It:

- Hot compost piles work faster. Al can have a ready supply of rich black soil if he manages the temperature.
- The thermometer has a 20" probe to easily reach the center of the pile.
- It's very quick and is reliable.

### Where you can Get it:

- Lee Valley Tools. It retails for \$42.50



## A Cement Mixer

### Why Al Loves It:

- In the past, he mixed ingredients to make soils by hand using a wheelbarrow and a shovel. It's heavy work and it's hard on the back.
- His life became much easier after he bought a cement mixer. Now all he does is throw in some light shovelfuls of material, hit a switch and walk away. The mixer does a far superior job of mixing and breaking everything up evenly and after a few minutes it is tipped into a wheelbarrow for dispersal. Too easy!

### Where you can Get it:

- Al bought a used one. But you can also find them on sale at most local hardware stores.