

Rain In The Garden

Bring some parrot fun to your backyard

By Connie Cho

Spring is a time for renewal, and what better way to celebrate the growth of flowers and the coming rain than with bird-themed rain gear and garden décor.

The "Island Dreams" umbrella from the Umbrella Stand has a tropical theme complete with a blue-and-gold macaw. It is a traditionally styled umbrella with curved handle. When opened, it measures 48 inches. Contact: Umbrella Stand, (800) 998-0773, www.umbrellastand.com

The ceramic Plant Percher from 14 Karat Parrot adds a splash of parrot fun to any potted plant or flower vase. It is available in a variety of styles — blue-and-gold, green-winged, scarlet and military macaws. The percher measures 6-inches high and will fit pots with a lip up to 12-inch wide. Contact: 14 Karat Parrot, (631) 696-6078, www.14karatparrot.net

Welcome the wild birds in your garden with the Eva Solo Bird Table. The glass container can hold 170 fluid ounces of bird food and dispenses food as the birds eat it. A stainless-steel rod holds up the platform and can be easily grounded in your backyard garden. Contact: Sprout Home, (312) 226-5950, www.sprouthome.com; Eva Solo, www.evasolo.com

The three-dimensional ceramic vase by Carl and Phyllis Johnson also serves as a planter for both interior and exterior settings. The parrots are permanently fastened to the case and each is painted with ultra-fine brush strokes to add life-like detail. It is available in a number of parrot species. Contact: Carl & Phyllis Johnson, (305) 248-1469, CAJORPAJ@aol.com

More inspired than the Chia Pet, the Chickee planter by Nyokki is filled with soil media and rye grass seed to germinate and grow your Chickee planter's 'do. (Not for bird consumption.) Hand-made in Japan, the Nyokki planter is made from glazed ceramic and has legs made from fabric. It measures 1.75-inches high and 1.875-inches in diameter. Contact: Sprout Home, (312) 226-5950, www.sprouthome.com

Add music to your garden with wind chimes from Jackson's Birds. The ceramic wind chimes are available in two colorful styles — budgie and macaw, which each measure approximately 22-inches long. The three-ring metal wing chime (left) features macaw cut-outs and a special macaw-themed chime in the center. Contact: Jackson's Birds, (269) 445-8268, www.jacksonsbirds.com