



# Tried & tested kneelers

GN consumer expert **Geoff Hodge** trials a selection of garden kneeler stools and pads

**G**ARDENERS spend a lot of time on their knees, whether it's planting out bulbs, bedding and other small plants or weeding. Our knees, calves and shins take a lot of stress and strain throughout an average year. Anything that reduces the stress, the pressure (and the pain) has to be a good thing.

Kneeler pads are fabulous for making gardening easier. Also, when weeding gravel paths something that cushions the pain of sharp edges and rough surfaces is essential. I have some problems

with my knees and tend to crouch or kneel on one knee, which isn't the best way to garden.

But sometimes where mobility is even more reduced, getting up and down to do these essential jobs can be difficult or even impossible. Kneeler stools have handles on either side, which support your weight while you settle yourself down or get back up from the kneeling position.

And as they also turn into seats when used the other way round, they're perfect for taking a little rest or when doing jobs sitting

down, such as working in the potting shed or greenhouse. Stools also have the advantage that the pads are raised a few inches off the ground, so they don't get dirty or wet.

### The test

I tested the kneeler stools and pads on the lawn for weeding the nearby border and on an uneven, hard gravel path.

When testing the stools, I was looking for ease of use, whether I felt safe using them to support my upper torso weight when getting

down into the kneeling position and how stable they were when used as a seat.

To be honest, there wasn't a great deal of difference between the pads. They all worked really well and were definitely much better than having nothing to make me more comfortable - especially, as you can imagine, on the gravel! They all have their plus points and much depends on whether you like a harder kneeling surface or a soft one and how much you are prepared to pay.

## WIN OUR 'BEST BUY' KNEELING PADS

We have five Bosmere Folding Garden Kneeler Stools and 10 Yeoman KneelAIR 'best buys' to give away! Send your name and address to Garden News Kneeler Giveaway, PO Box 57, Coates, Peterborough PE7 2FE or enter online at [www.greatcompetitions.co.uk](http://www.greatcompetitions.co.uk)

Closing date is August 14.

Please write 'do not contact' if you don't want to be contacted by us or by carefully selected partner organisations.



## KNEELING PADS

### Yeoman KneelAIR £7.99

Self-inflating cushion that inflates when you open the valve. You can adjust the hardness of the pad to suit you. Deflate and fold away in its protective bag when not in use.



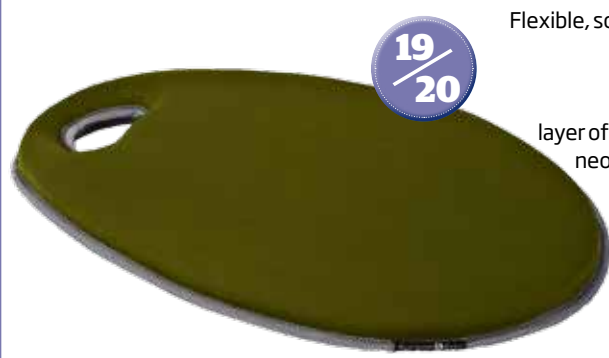
**Size** 40x30x5.5cm (15¼x12x2¼in)  
**Quality** ★★★★★  
Made from hard-wearing waterproof nylon with internal foam structure.  
**Performance** ★★★★★  
Handled all the terrains well.  
**Usability** ★★★★★  
Comfortable and flexible, moulds around the knees and shins.  
**Value** ★★★★★



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### Burgon & Ball Kneelo £14.95

Flexible, soft cushion. Available in seven colours.



**Size** 50x31x5cm (20x12½x2in)  
**Quality** ★★★★★  
EVA foam core with cushioning layer of memory foam, covered in waterproof neoprene with waterproof nylon coating.  
**Performance** ★★★★★  
Handled all the terrains well.  
**Usability** ★★★★★  
Comfortable and flexible, moulds itself around the knees and shins.  
**Value** ★★★★★

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### Bosmere Bosmat £5.25

Solid, hard foam pad.  
**Size** 38x20x2.2cm (15x8x¾in)  
**Quality** ★★★★★  
Made from triple laminate, high-density foam with a tougher protective skin on both sides.  
**Performance** ★★★★★  
Thick enough to give good protection  
**Usability** ★★★★★  
Although made from hard foam, it was comfortable throughout the test.  
**Value** ★★★★★



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### Draper Gardeners Kneeler £3.75

Solid, hard foam pad.  
**Size** 41x18.5x2.5cm (16¼x7¾x1in)  
**Quality** ★★★★★  
Made from dense foam.  
**Performance** ★★★★★  
Handled all the terrains well.  
**Usability** ★★★★★  
Although made from hard foam, it remained comfortable throughout the test.  
**Value** ★★★★★



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### Gardman Kneeler Cushion £2.99



Solid, hard foam pad.  
**Size** 38.5x19.5x2.2cm (15¼x7¾x¾in)  
**Quality** ★★★★★  
Made from triple laminate, high-density foam.  
**Performance** ★★★★★  
Handled all the terrains well.  
**Usability** ★★★★★  
Although made from hard foam, it stayed comfortable throughout the test.  
**Value** ★★★★★

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## Stool and pad suppliers

Some suppliers only sell to gardening stores, but you can usually buy their products online. **Bosmere** 01293 586200, [www.bosmere.com](http://www.bosmere.com); **Burgon & Ball** 0114 233 8262, [www.burgonandball.com](http://www.burgonandball.com); **Draper Tools**, 02380 494333 for stockist details, [www.draper.co.uk](http://www.draper.co.uk); **Gardman**, 01406 372237, [www.gardman.co.uk](http://www.gardman.co.uk); **Town & Country** 01530 830990, [www.townandco.com](http://www.townandco.com); **Ward** from **Strata Products** 01773 510520, [www.strataproducs.co.uk](http://www.strataproducs.co.uk); **Yeoman** 01905 791984, [www.yeomangarden.com](http://www.yeomangarden.com)

## GARDENING GEAR

## KNEELER STOOLS

### Bosmere Folding Garden Kneeler Stool £28.99

The legs fold up flat when not in use. The maximum recommended weight capacity is 100kg (15½ stone).  
**Size** 59x25x49cm high (23¼x10x19¼in); sitting height 44cm (17¼in); seat/kneeling pad area 41.5x15cm (16¼x6in)

**Quality** ★★★★★  
The frame is made from powder-coated steel. The seat and kneeler pad are made from EVA foam.

**Performance** ★★★★★  
It worked well as a kneeler. It had good stability and the longest handles of the models on test allowed me to get up and down very easily.

**Usability** ★★★★★  
The kneeling pad was very comfortable. The

seat was comfortable, but quite narrow - although that 1cm (½in) width difference between this seat and the Town & Country model made all the difference!  
**Value** ★★★★★



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### Town & Country Gardener's Kneeler & Stool £29.99

The legs fold up flat when not in use. The maximum recommended weight capacity is 100kg (15½ stone).  
**Size** 60x28x47cm high (23¼x11x18½in); sitting height 42cm (16½in); seat/kneeling pad area 40x14cm (15¾x5½in)

**Quality** ★★★★★  
The frame is made from powder-coated steel. The seat and kneeler pad are made from EVA foam.

### Performance

★★★★★  
It worked well as a kneeler because it was very stable and the long handles allowed me to get up and down quite easily.

**Usability** ★★★★★  
The kneeling pad was very comfortable. The seat was comfortable, but quite narrow and I found I needed to get into the right position for full comfort.  
**Value** ★★★★★



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### Draper Folding Kneeler & Seat £23.99

The legs easily fold up flat when not in use. The maximum recommended weight capacity for this is 125kg (19 stone).  
**Size** 54x26x42cm high (21¼x10¼x16½in); sitting height 33cm (13in); seat area 39.5x22cm (15½x8¾in); kneeling pad 37x19.5cm (14½x7¾in)

**Quality** ★★★★★  
The frame is made from powder-coated steel and has plastic protectors to help prevent scratching on hard surfaces. The seat is plastic and the kneeler pad is EVA foam.

**Performance** ★★★★★  
It worked well as a kneeler. However, as a stool it was fairly unstable.

**Usability** ★★★★★  
The kneeling pad was comfortable, but the raised buttons holding it in place did dig into my knees and

shins. The solid plastic seat became a little uncomfortable after a while.  
**Value** ★★★★★



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### Ward Garden Kneeler £14.99

This kneeler is one piece plastic, so it doesn't fold up flat. When used as a stool, the hollow legs can be used to store gardening tools and equipment. The maximum recommended weight capacity is 100kg (15½ stone).  
**Size** 66x24.5x34cm high (26x9¾x13½in); sitting height 34cm (13½in); seat area 40x24.5cm (15¾x9¾in); kneeling pad 30x20cm (11¾x8in)

**Quality** ★★★★★  
The frame and integral seat is made from recycled plastic; the kneeler pad is made from rigid foam.  
**Performance** ★★★★★  
It worked well as a kneeler. However, it was not that stable as a stool.  
**Usability** ★★★★★  
The kneeling pad was comfortable, but the ridged seat could do with a cushion. The handle grips were uncomfortable when getting up and down.  
**Value** ★★★★★



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