

Tried & tested Pot movers

Pot movers

Geoff Hodge makes a move testing 'plant taxis'

Geoff Hodge
Product tester



IF YOU'RE one of those people that like to regularly rearrange all the plants on your patio, you're probably fed up with having to lift and carry all the pots around.

Even the most agile and fit gardeners can struggle to move large plants growing in heavy pots and if you're less than agile,

moving even small pots can be a struggle. That's where a wheeled pot mover can be a great asset.

And, for those of you that tend to end up dragging rather than lifting, a pot mover will save your patio from damage.

As well as helping you move heavy plants and pots around, a pot mover will keep pots off the ground, so helping to improve drainage and protect them against frost damage in winter.

The test

I moved a number of large pots around my paths and patio. The larger the wheel, the easier it was to move them across rough surfaces. The larger wheels were able to bridge wide gaps - such as those between paving slabs.

One feature that can be important is lockable wheels - they ensure the pot mover stays put when accidentally touched or bumped into, and prevent 'runaways' on inclined ground.

Gardman Wooden Pot Trolley

This wooden trolley measures 30cm (12in) in diameter. Takes weights up to 50kg (110lb). Also available as 30cm (12in) square.

Quality ★★★★★

Features a thick and strong wooden slatted base.

Usability ★★★★★

Worked well with a range of pot sizes. It has four 4cm (1½in) diameter wheels, two of which are lockable.

Performance ★★★★★

This was very stable and handled rough terrain very well.

Value ★★★★★

Very versatile, worked well and excellent value for money

Price guide £6.99.

20/20



GARDMAN

WIN A TROLLEY!

We have 20 of our Best Buy to give away! Send your name and address to Garden News Pot Mover Giveaway, PO Box 57, Coates, Peterborough PE7 2FE or enter online at www.greatcompetitions.co.uk Closing date is July 3. Please write 'do not contact' if you don't want to be contacted by us or by carefully selected partner organisations.



17/20

Cast-iron Pot Mover

An ornamental pot mover, although it wouldn't be visible when in use. Diameter 28.5cm (11in). Takes weights up to 100kg (220lb).

Quality ★★★★★

Made from heavy-duty, coated cast iron.

Usability ★★★★★

Being flat, it can be used with a range of pot sizes. Has four 3cm (1¼in) diameter wheels

that are not lockable.

Performance ★★★★★

Has the smallest wheels of all the movers tested, and was very bumpy on rough ground and tended to stick in larger gaps. Very stable.

Value ★★★★★

For its size, the most expensive on test.

Price guide £14.99; supplied by Crocus.



16/20

Classic Round Plant Trolley

Very ornamental, although it wouldn't be visible when in use. Diameter 28.5cm (11in). Takes weights up to 50kg (110lb).

Quality ★★★★★

Made from coated cast iron.

Usability ★★★★★

Being flat, it can be used with a range of pot sizes. It has three 4cm (1½in) diameter wheels, two of

which are lockable.

Performance ★★★★★

Managed most terrains well. Only having three wheels meant it was less stable and may tip sideways.

Value ★★★★★

Reasonably good value for money, especially as it's made from metal.

Price guide £12.49; supplied by Greenfingers.



12/20

Elho Pot Mover

This saucer on wheels comes in diameters 30cm/12in and 40cm/16in and two colours - terracotta and anthracite. The 30cm size takes weights up to 60kg (132lb).

Quality ★★★★★

Its plastic is quite flexible.

Usability ★★★★★

The '30cm' saucer actually measured 29cm (11½in) and will only take pots up to 26cm

(10½in) wide. Its four wheels aren't lockable.

Performance ★★★★★

The lip held the pot securely, and it managed most terrains well. The wheels do not swivel.

Value ★★★★★

Least useful in the test.

Price guide 30cm £9.99; 40cm £14.99; supplied by Crocus.



16/20

Gardman Heavy Duty Plant Caddy

The mesh 'cage' measures 43cm (17in) in diameter. Takes weights up to 100kg (220lb). Also available as round and square Heavy Duty Plant Caddy measuring 25cm (10in) and 30cm (12in).

Quality ★★★★★

Made from epoxy-coated heavy-duty wire mesh.

Usability ★★★★★

Because it has a lip, it will take

pots up to 39cm (15½in) wide. It has four wheels, one of which is lockable.

Performance ★★★★★

The mesh base reduced the stability of the pots, unless they fitted perfectly.

Managed most terrains well.

Value ★★★★★

Reasonably good value.

Price guide £11.99; 25cm £7.99; 33cm £9.99.



14/20

Sankey Pot Mover

Available in three sizes (30cm/12in, 35cm/14in and 40cm/16in) and three colours - green, terracotta and black. Takes weights up to 30cm 35kg (77lb), 35cm 45kg (99lb) and 40cm 55kg (121lb).

Quality ★★★★★

Made from thick plastic.

Usability ★★★★★

I tested the 35cm size, which because it has a lip, will take

a pot up to 31cm (12in) wide. It has three wheels that aren't blockable.

Performance ★★★★★

The lip held the pot securely, and it managed most terrains well.

Value ★★★★★

Fairly good value for money, despite its limitations.

Price guide 30cm £9.79; 35cm £11.99; 40cm £14.99.



19/20

The Pottymover

Has an ornamental fluted skirt and comes in two sizes (27cm/11in and 40cm/16in) and eight colours. Takes weights up to 100kg (220lb).

Quality ★★★★★

Made from strong plastic. The only mover with quality ball-bearing swivels in the wheels.

Usability ★★★★★

The larger size measures

53.5cm (21in) in diameter and will take a pot up to 40cm (16in) diameter. It has four wheels that are not lockable.

Performance ★★★★★

Pots were very stable held within the lip.

Value ★★★★★

Reasonably priced.

Price guide 27cm £7.95; 40cm £9.95; supplied by Jonathan Ramsdale.

Suppliers

Gardman and Sankey only sell to gardening stores, but you can buy their products from online shops. Crocus 08445 572244, www.crocus.co.uk; Gardman 01406 372237, www.gardman.co.uk; Greenfingers 08453 450728, www.greenfingers.com; Jonathan Ramsdale 07967 054888, plantpotmoversandstands.co.uk; Sankey Garden Products 0115 927 7335, www.sankeygrowyourown.co.uk

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