

Great Find for the Gardener - Hinged Knee Pads

by Charlie Beck

I work in our garden practically every day. Most of the planting, weeding and mulching requires a great amount of time close to the ground. I have bought many garden implements including kneeling pads, portable stools, hinged seats which include knee rests and rolling seats. I've tried just about every item offered in gardening catalogues. Some of these products are fine for limited use. All of these require you to carry them along, which is problematic.

Standard knee pads strap to your knees and don't have the drawback of carry along products. They do have the problem of sliding down your leg or twisting sideways at times. They rely on straps to hold them in place. If you strap them tight enough, they tend to stay put but they can still slip sideways. Some of those products have Velcro attachments which I have found to lack long term durability.

One of the mail order catalogues I received featured hinged knee pads. One had hinged gel pads which were priced at \$45 and looked heavy. Another was \$22.95 and was constructed of molded hard plastic with a small grip strip insert. The inner surface featured half inch thick foam pads. The molded plastic shell wrap around the knees to provide

additional protection. The hinge feature reportedly prevented knee pads from slipping down toward your ankles. Both straps are elastic with speed clips which snap in place for easy on-off.

I gave these knee pads a try. They exceeded all of my expectations. They are light weight. They stay in place all day. The added protection from the wrap around design



allows me to kneel in thorny pruning material without worrying about puncture wounds. The straps hold firm and are easy to attach. If the elastic wears out they are replaceable.

The hinged design really does solve the problem of the pads sliding out of place. I even noticed that debris does not find a way between the pad and your knee like standard knee pads. I do not recommend using

these if you wear short pants. Your knees would directly contact the foam pads if you did.

Here is the brand and model number of the hinged knee pads I tried: KP Industries Knee Pro Ultra Flex III. They are available from internet sources.