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Selecting The Perfect Garden Tools For Your Yard

By Daniel Smith

As winter days grow longer, the gardener in all of us longs to be out digging in the dirt. After many

cold months of sitting in warm kitchens and happily dreaming of flower and vegetable gardens, it is a wonderful feeling to finally get outside in the sun and feel the earth beneath your fingertips. If you have never before known the satisfaction of working the soil and nurturing plants, there is no time like the present to start enjoying everything that gardening has to offer. You will need a few simple tools to start on your way. Many of the tools available are extraneous and easily done without, but there are a few basics that no gardener should be without. Use this handy checklist to take stock of the tools in your garden shed.

Spading Fork: This tool is usually the first tool that you will use when spring rolls around. A spading fork is an important tool for breaking up hard, winter packed soil and combing additives such as compost or manure into your dirt. A spading tool looks like a smaller version of the pitchfork farmers have used for years. Unlike the pitchfork, a spading fork has wider tines and a smaller handle.

Hoe: This tool is very helpful for tearing weeds out of your soil. A hoe is also a great device for cultivating the surface of the soil so that water and feed can penetrate to your plants roots. If your hoe is dull, get a new one or have the blade sharpened, because there is nothing worse that slaving over weeds with a dull hoe that is ineffective.

Shovel: A sturdy round ended shovel will come in very handy for all sorts of gardening projects. You can use it to break up soil, dig up grass or weeds, and dig deep holes form planting your vegetable and flower plants, shrubs, and even trees. Choose a shovel with a smooth and sturdy handle that fits well in your hand. You should also make sure that the height of the handle is comfortable for you.

Rake: When you go shopping for a rake for your garden it is important to bypass the rakes that you are used to using to rake leaves off your lawn every fall. In the garden, you use a bow rake which is much different than the fan rakes that sweep up debris. A bow rake has short tines on one side attached to a metal frame, traditionally called a bow, and where the name bow rake originates from. A bow rake is used for removing large clots or rocks from the soil. The sturdy tines are great for sinking down beneath the surface of your soil and pulling out the things you don't want in your garden. A bow rake is

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also a great tool for leveling your garden after you have hoed and dug it up, to prepare it for planting. The flat side of a hoe rake can be run along the soil (tines up) to flatten and pack your dirt into a smooth pattern. The tines can also be traced lightly against the flattened soil to prepare planting trenches for seeds such as radishes, carrots or onions.

Shears: Having a good pair of garden shears or clippers is essential for the care of your plants. Make sure that you get a sturdy pair that feels comfortable in your hand. This tool is used for pruning, shaping, and clipping away old foliage so new growth can flourish. Shears come in all price ranges and the cost usually reflects the quality. If you invest in a good pair of shears, they will pay for themselves many times over with years of solid, dependable use. If you skimp when it comes to buying this tool, chances are you will be frustrated by the low quality of the work they do, and it is very possible that you will have to replace them before the season is even over.

If you arm yourself with the tools on this simple garden tool checklist, you should find yourself ready to

meet the spring. There are a lot more garden tools available, and many of them are innovative and useful, but if you have all of the tools mentioned above, you will find you have everything you need to do some spring gardening!

Daniel Smith writes about Hardware Tools and Gardening Supplies

<http://www.hardwaretoolsale.com>

A Garden – Tools For The Trade

By Jena Luthovski

In order to starting a beautiful garden or impeccable landscaping at home, one should begin with finding and selecting the right tools. Here, find out what you'll need.

Gardens are quite possibly one of the most rewarding aspects of a home, and you don't necessarily have to be a green thumb to cultivate a captivating and breathtaking garden. All a person needs is the correct tools to complete their job. If you plan on starting your own garden, you can go and purchase all the tools you'll need or if you'd prefer to keep the cost down, see if neighbors, friends or family can lend you theirs.

Of course, you'll first want to start with something to dig. That's easy – a shovel! If you're buying, choose one with a comfortable grip. Digging and planting is possibly the most physical aspect of gardening, but once you're finished, small tools are all you'll need.

If you are looking to landscape your own yard or at least maintain it. One should have a leaf blower for the fall season or they can use the old fashion rake. If your house is surrounded by shrubbery and bushes, one should be equipped with a hedge cutter to neatly and evenly trim the hedges. If a home owner wants to keep his or her yard (front and back) to look gorgeous all year round, you have to keep

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up all year round. Trimming

Your set of hand tools will be used the most; so again, remember to get something that has a comfortable grip and possibly wrist support. If you're lucky, you can find garden tool sets that have everything you need! Things to look for are a hand rake, a spade and pruners. These tools are designed to make working with your hands easier while gardening.

If you're going to go all out, get a wheelbarrow or garden cart. These can be used to store all of your tools for future use. A wheelbarrow is by far the easiest to take here or there but a garden cart is the ultimate in tool organization. Be sure to choose which one fits your needs the best.

Of course, gardening is not easy and is often laborious and tiring. But with the right tools, gardening can be an enjoyable and rewarding. By alternating between annuals and perennials, you can enjoy your garden year round! To find out further information about hardware tools or gardening tools log onto:

<http://www.hardwaretoolsale.com>

Jena Luthowski writes about

<http://www.HomeGardenCoupons.com>

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