



GARDENING TOOLS

from left to right

- Hand weeder
- Hand trowel
- Hand cultivator
- Border spade
- Soil testing kit
- Spading fork
- Anvil pruner
- Garden fork
- Flower shears
- By-pass pruners
- Bulb planter

*counterclockwise
from top*

- Flat-blade spade
- Hedge shears
- Round-point shovel
- Round-blade edger
- Flathead rake

*photographs by Brenda Pescia
O&B Specialty Publications photographer*

Using right tools makes good garden sense

The first thing beginners learn is there is a right time and place to plant your garden, but the tools you use to create your backyard masterpiece are just as important, says Mary Reyes, a manager at the Plymouth Nursery.

"If you use the right tool it makes the job a lot more productive — and a lot less expensive," she says. "For example, if you use a hand pruner to trim a large tree limb it's going to damage the tool.

Not only will you have to replace the pruner, but you'll have the expense of buying the tool you need as well. You can also damage your plant, she says. If you prune bushes or large limbs with the wrong tool, you won't get a clean cut and the plant will be damaged by improper healing or scarring.

To help you determine which tools of the craft best fit the needs of your gardening tasks, most gardening resource books, including Sunset's "Basic Gardening" and Martha Stewart's "Gardening", offer this handy list of gardening implements and their uses for your reference.

TOOLS FOR CULTIVATION

Hand trowel: good for container and small gardening tasks. Can be used to mix soil, plant seedlings or dig up weeds.

Hand cultivator: this is a fork with three sharp prongs which make digging easier. Good for getting into

small spaces, such as between plants.

Hand weeder: this triangular steel blade with knifelike sharpness is useful for breaking up soil, weeding and cultivating.

Round-point shovel: use to dig up garden plots; move soil and compost

and to transplant larger plants.

Spade: this shovel with a flatter blade is useful for digging planting holes, moving soil and compost, and breaking off invasive roots.

Garden fork: the four flat tines on this tool break up hard soil.

Spading fork: smaller than the

Please turn to page 5