

Use right tools for garden tasks: save time, money, and possibly your garden

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garden fork: this tool is useful when you need to dig out perennials with few severed roots, harvest root vegetables or tum compost.

Round blade edger: the sharp edge on this tool makes it good for marking off garden beds and for weeding in difficult places.

Flathead rake: good for leveling beds after cultivation.

Hoe: use a hoe to dig out weeds, to make rows for planting and to transplant holes.

Tiller: use a tiller to mix soil additions into planting beds and to break up dense soil.

TOOLS FOR CUTTING

Pruning shears: use straight bypass shears for multi-stemmed shrubs and places that are difficult to reach.

Thinning shears: this small, point-

ed narrow scissor is used to dead-head flowers, cut flowers and to harvest fruits and vegetables.

Loppers: long-handled loppers are a must for cutting branches over 1/2 inch; they also reach easier into high dense foliage.

Hedge shears: these scissor-like shears with serrated blades are good for shaping and shearing hedges, shrubs and some ground covers.

HELPFULS TO HAVE ON HAND

Gloves: heavy-duty leather gloves are good when using tools or collecting debris; gloves of lighter weight material like goatskin are good for pruning and weeding.

Baskets: wicker and wooden baskets with handles are useful for collecting vegetables and for carrying hand tools to the garden.

Plant rings or guards: used as support for taller plants; guards should be made of a non-rust material and put in place when the plants are small.

Vine supports: use to train young vines or to support old ones.

Bamboo stakes: use these stakes to

support plants between four and six feet tall.

Jute or twine: natural and biodegradable are the best to tie plants to their supports.

Burlap: use burlap to give evergreens, roses and perennial borders protection during winter months.

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