

TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

BEGINNERS GUIDE TO GARDENING



ESSENTIAL TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT FOR BEGINNERS

Welcome to the wonderful world of gardening! If you're a beginner, you might be feeling overwhelmed by the sheer number of gardening tools and equipment available. But fear not, we're here to help. In this module, we'll walk you through the top 9 must-have tools for any beginner gardener, so you can start cultivating your green thumb with confidence.

While you can certainly start gardening with just sun, soil, and seeds, having the right tools can make the process much easier and more enjoyable. So, let's dive in and explore the world of gardening tools together!



TROWEL

A trowel is a small hand tool that can be used to move, apply, smooth, or dig small amounts of material. The task at hand dictates when to use a gardening trowel. When planting bulbs, annuals, or perennials, small holes can be dug with a garden trowel. Using a garden trowel to dig a hole for a tree or shrub would take a lot of time and effort.



Weed removal also requires a garden trowel. A blade with a narrow width is better for digging out weeds or installing small plants or bulbs in small, tight spaces. On weeds with long taproots, flat trowel blades are more effective. The best tools for digging up small plants, making holes for perennials, and scooping up soil when potting plants are wider trowel blades and scoop-shaped blades.

SPADE

The shape of the blade on garden spade tools helps cut sod, reshape beds, and dig out deeper planting holes for light cultivation. Many individuals are know all about utilising a nursery spade during the development of vegetable or blossom beds. The state of the cutting edge cuts into the dirt and helps blend in revisions. It also makes nice, deep holes for plants' well-developed root systems with its long, narrow blade.



DIGGING FORK

A fork with four to six flat, straight tines is known as a digging fork. The purpose of a digging fork is, as the name suggests, digging. When digging into a bed that is compacted, clay, or rocky, you should use a digging fork rather than a pitchfork or compost fork.

Digging forks are also used to remove tough, massive root structures from plants. These can be garden establishes that you expect to relocate or gap or fixes of troublesome weeds. Digging forks' tines can cause less damage to root structures, making it possible to remove more roots than with a spade.



RAKE

A garden rake is built to be strong and last a long time. It can truly save your back while working in the nursery, on account of the length of the shaft. Because it has 12 rigid tines, it is ideal for use when there is a large open area that needs to be raked over. Whether leveling off a bumpy border or cultivating a new vegetable bed, the sturdy tines make working any soil a breeze.



OTHER GARDENING TOOLS & SUPPLIES

Lawnmower

A lawnmower is a machine used for cutting and trimming grass in a garden. It helps to keep the grass at a consistent height, preventing it from becoming too tall and unsightly. Regular mowing also promotes healthy growth and helps to keep the grass dense and lush.

In addition to keeping the lawn looking neat and healthy, a lawnmower can also prevent the growth of weeds and other unwanted plants. By cutting the grass regularly, you can prevent the growth of weeds and other invasive plants, which can take over a lawn and make it difficult to maintain.



Secateurs

While there are many tools to choose from, one essential tool that every gardener should have is a good pair of secateurs. Secateurs are handheld pruning shears for cutting small branches, stems, and flowers. They come in handy for various jobs throughout the year, from shaping hedges to deadheading flowers. As you become more experienced, you'll soon realise that secateurs are one of the most frequently used tools in the garden, especially during the spring and summer months when plants are growing and flowering.

Garden gloves



Not just to keep your hands clean when you are gardening, but gardening gloves can save your hands from injuries if you have nettles or thorns in the garden. More importantly, some plants can be harmful to humans, so gloves add an extra layer of protection.

Watering can

Water is vital to the health and growth of plants. Watering cans can make it easy to water plants evenly and gently, preventing overwatering or underwatering that can harm the plant's growth. Watering cans also allow you to target the root zone, which is where the plant absorbs water and nutrients.

A watering can allow you to control the amount of water that you use, preventing wastage and saving water. This is especially important during times of drought or water scarcity.

Watering cans are easy to use, and they come in different sizes and shapes to suit different needs. Small watering cans are ideal for indoor plants, while larger ones are suitable for outdoor gardens.



Kneeling pad

For a beginner gardener, a kneeling pad can be an incredibly useful tool when working in the garden. Here are a few reasons why:

Comfort: Kneeling on hard or uneven ground can be uncomfortable and can lead to knee pain or injury over time. A kneeling pad provides a cushioned surface that can help reduce the pressure on your knees, making it more comfortable to work for longer periods.

Protection: A kneeling pad also provides a barrier between your knees and the ground, protecting them from rocks, sharp objects, and rough surfaces that can cause cuts or bruises.

Convenience: A kneeling pad is lightweight and portable, making it easy to carry around the garden as you work. You can use it to kneel on when planting, weeding, or pruning, and then easily move it out of the way when you're done.

Hygiene: A kneeling pad can also help keep you clean while working in the garden. By using a pad, you can avoid getting dirt and mud on your clothes or skin, which can be especially important if you have allergies or sensitivities to certain substances.



HOW TO CLEAN AND MAINTAIN YOUR GARDEN TOOLS

If you're new to gardening, you might be surprised to learn just how important it is to keep your garden tools clean and well-maintained.

Dirty tools can harbor harmful bacteria and pests that can wreak havoc on your garden, while dull blades and rust can render them ineffective.

But don't worry - cleaning and maintaining your garden tools is easy, and it's a great way to ensure that you get the most out of your gardening experience. Here's a step-by-step guide to cleaning and maintaining some of the most commonly used garden tools: spade, fork, trowel, shears, and secateurs.

Let's start with the spade and fork

These tools are essential for digging and turning over soil, but they're often the dirtiest after a day of gardening. To clean them, use a wire brush or a stiff-bristled brush to remove any dirt and debris. If you notice any rust on the blade, use steel wool to remove it. Once clean, dry the tool thoroughly to prevent rust from forming. And don't forget to maintain the blade's sharpness by using a sharpening stone or a metal file.





Next up is the trowel

Which is perfect for planting, transplanting, and weeding. To clean it, use a damp cloth or a sponge to wipe off any dirt and debris. Again, if you notice any rust on the blade, use steel wool to remove it. Once clean, dry the tool thoroughly to prevent rust from forming, and sharpen the blade if necessary.

Finally, we come to the shears and secateurs

Which are used for pruning and trimming. To clean them, use a damp cloth or sponge to wipe off any sap or debris. If you notice any rust on the blade, use steel wool to remove it. Once clean, dry the tool thoroughly to prevent rust from forming, and sharpen the blade to maintain its effectiveness.



Maintenance

In addition to cleaning your tools, it's important to take steps to maintain them. Keep your tools dry and store them in a dry place to prevent rust from forming. Apply a light coat of oil or WD-40 to metal tools to prevent rust, and replace any damaged or broken parts to prevent injury.

By following these simple tips, you'll be able to keep your garden tools in top condition, and you'll be doing your part to ensure a healthy and thriving garden. So take the time to clean and care for your tools - your garden (and your back!) will thank you for it.