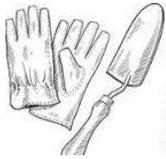


Clean, sharp tools work better and help to maintain a healthy garden and lawn!

Following a regular maintenance routine also means fewer blisters and backaches...

Don't forget the gardener maintenance!



Gardening - Use the right tools the right way

<http://www.hillspt.com/Lifestyle-Activities/Gardening/Gardening-Use-the-right-tools-the-right-way/a~7997/article.html>



Plant and Rake Without the Ache!

<http://www.chiropractic.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/gardentri-fold.pdf>



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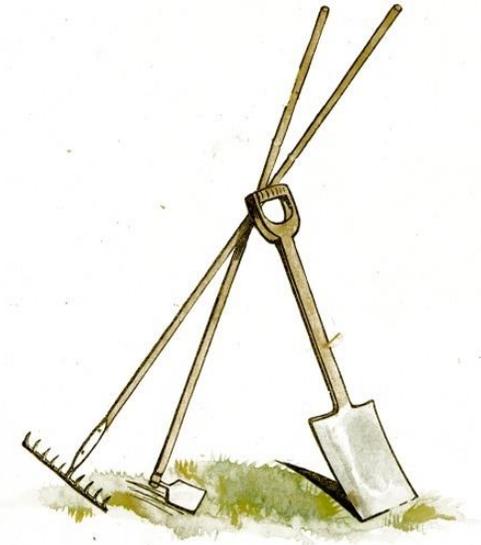
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Instagram



Proper Handling of Garden Tools



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El Paso County Master Gardeners
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Tool Maintenance How To... Step-by-Step Instructions

Garden Tool Storage

1. Keep tools off the ground and do not bunch together if possible.
2. Use wall hanging racks for larger tools.
3. Use pegboards for smaller tools.
 - Paint the tool shape behind its spot on the pegboard.
 - This helps you identify which tools are missing.

Keep Tools Clean, Disinfected, and Dry

1. Rinse off dirt and mud using a water hose.
 - Use a brush if necessary to help clean the tool.
2. Remove sap from tool – turpentine is best.
3. Dip tool in 10% bleach solution to kill any possible viruses.
4. Dry the tool thoroughly.
 - Keep an old towel handy.
5. Coat with oil to prevent rust.
 - Keep a separate old oily towel handy.

General Tool Maintenance

1. Examine and sand rough sections of tools with wood handles.
2. Coat the wood with boiled linseed oil.
3. Lubricate all moving parts to ensure smooth operation and prevent rust.
4. Remove existing rust.
 - Sand out rust spots.
 - Use rust removal products on rust spots that cannot be sanded.
 - Coat with oil to prevent further rust.
5. Use epoxy on broken plastic parts (handles, etc.).

Keep Tools Sharp

1. At minimum, acquire a smooth cut mill file and a hand-held sharpener.
 - Mill files come in various cutting sizes: bastard (coarse), second, and smooth cut.
 - Hand held sharpeners come in a variety of types.
2. Secure the tool before sharpening.
 - Use a shop vice if possible.
 - Wood clamps might suffice if no shop vice is available.
 - Disassemble loppers, clippers, etc. if possible before securing.

3. Push a file or other tool sharpener along the angle where the tool was previously sharpened.
 - A mill file only cuts in one direction. Do not draw the file across the work in the direction opposite to its cutting direction.
 - Use a smooth cut mill file for the final sharpening.
 - If you have trouble seeing the edge of the tool to be sharpened, apply magic marker to the edge and operate one stroke of the sharpener across the tool edge. Examine wear (removal of magic marker) and make corrections to ensure you are sharpening the tool at the correct angle.
 - Sharpening of the tool may be complete when shiny metal is showing across the entire cutting edge of the tool, or when all the magic marker has been removed.

*Compiled by: Rex Morris, Master Gardener
July 2014*

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