



Garden Tools and Maintenance Tips

With Justine Dune & Priscilla Robinson



Learning Goals



1. Identify the right tools for effective gardening.



2. Learn practical tips for tool maintenance and sharpening.

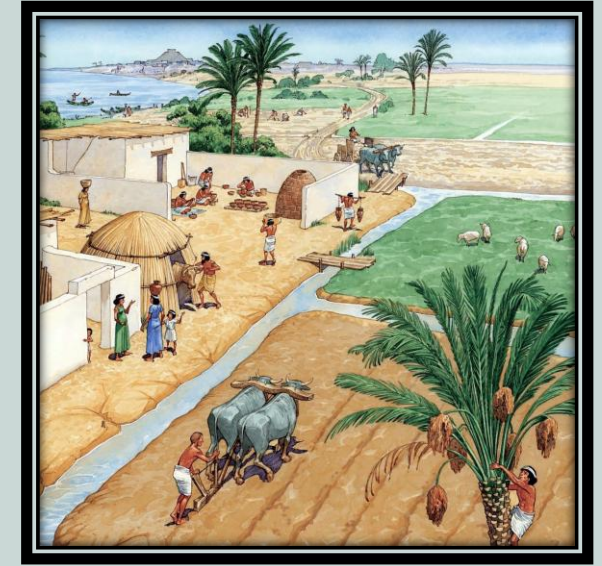




www.pinterest.com



<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/discover/roman-rubbish-reveals-lost-londinium>



www.pinterest.com.mx



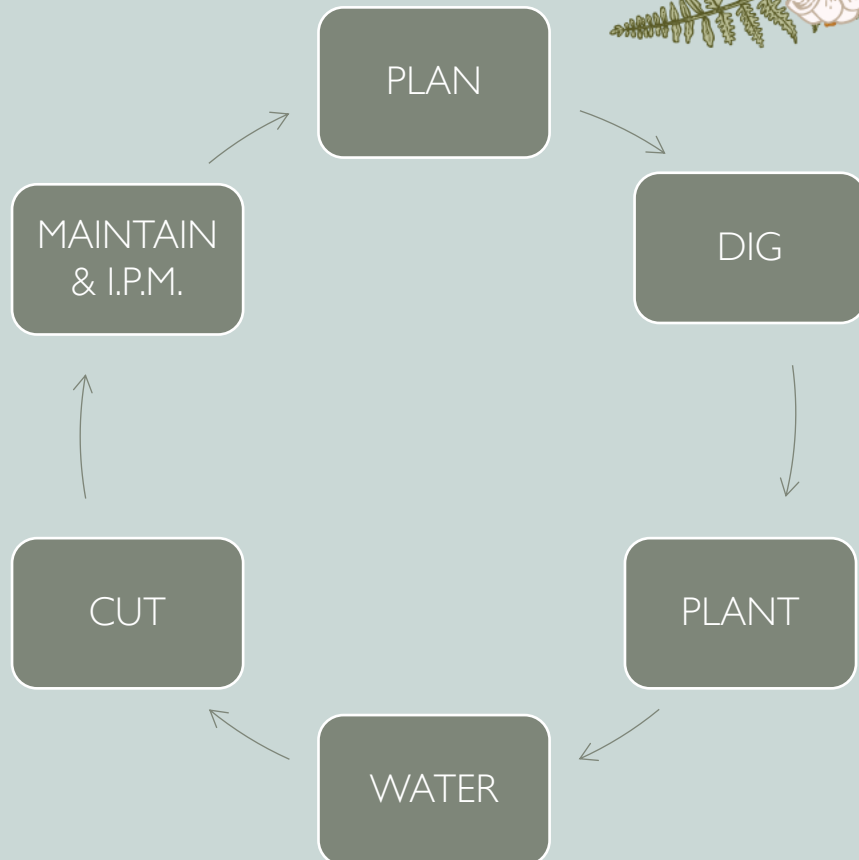
Historically.....

Primitive and ancient civilization agricultural tools met their gardening needs



Path to your Harvest

How will the agricultural tools meet your gardening needs?





Discover the tools that meet your gardening needs

Tools for Raised Garden Bed vs In-Ground



Raised vs In-Ground Garden Tools

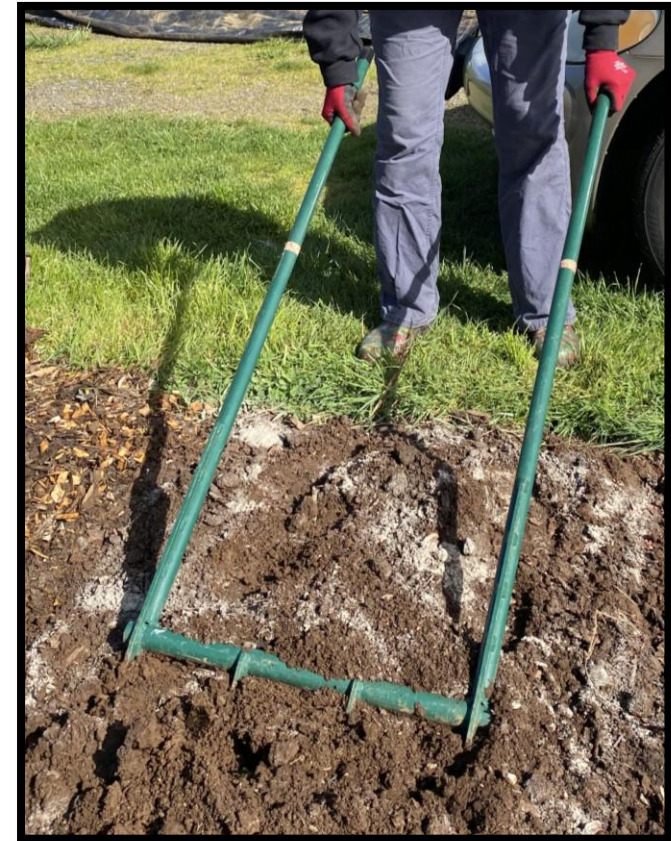
Raised Beds

- Garden Fork/Hoe with Short handles best
- Hand tools
- Cultivators with long handle
- Watering wand/can
- Seating along edges
- Tool Carrier or Tub



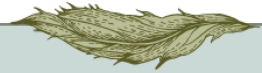
In-Ground Garden

- Garden Forks/Hoes with long handles
- Hefty tools
- Cultivators with long handles
- Kneeling pads or benches
- Wheelbarrow



Details to look for in Tool Selection

Long or Short Handled Tools



Long or Short Handled Tools

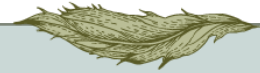
Construction:

- 14-gauge metal
- Long shank (12 inches) to affix sturdy handle
- Solid Cast (not soldered)
- Sturdy handle of wood or fiberglass



Details to Look for in Tool Selection

Pruning Tools



Pruning Tools

- Hand pruners with blades that “By-Pass”
- Loopers with metal or fiberglass handles
- Pruning saws to meet your needs
- Easily cleaned & sharpened
- Sturdy blades and handles



Garden Tool Care

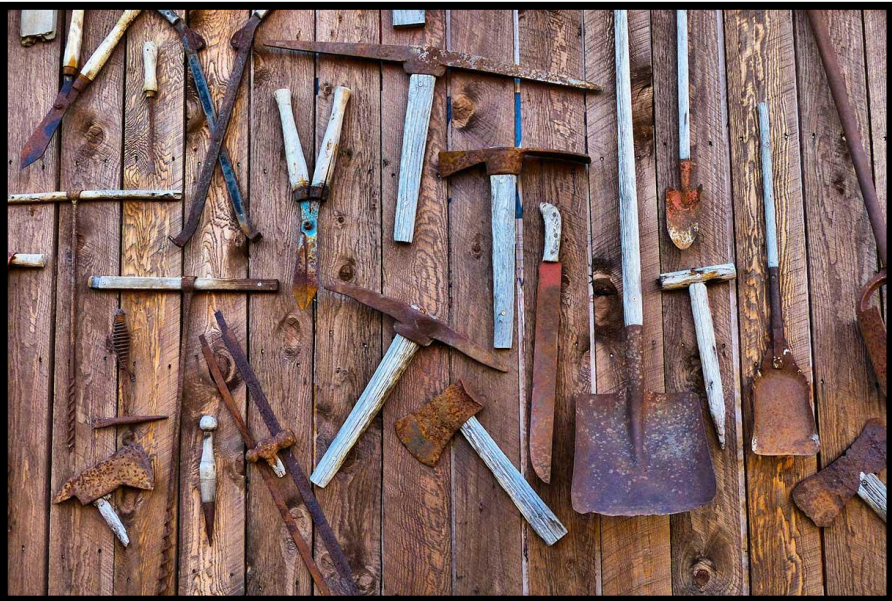


Photo by www.pinterest.com



Photo by www.pinterest.com



Photo by J. Collier

General Care for Garden Tools



**Clean and sharp tools
make work more enjoyable**

Care during the Gardening Season

- Give tools a good cleaning before storing them.
- Scrape off soil, using a stiff wire brush if necessary. Remove rust with sandpaper.
- Remove sap with a solvent such as mineral spirits or household foaming bathroom cleaner.



Photo by www.finegardening.com



Photo: Glenda Taylor

Care and Maintenance of Garden Tools

<https://cmastergardeners.files.wordpress.com/2022/02/garden-tool-care.pdf>

General Care for Garden Tools



Photo by J. Collier

- For shovels, hoes, forks and other metal tools, keep a 5-gallon bucket 4/5 full of sand, with about a quart of car engine oil or vegetable oil thoroughly mixed into it. Plunge tools into the sand a few times, then wipe clean with a rag.
- Wooden handles need to be cleaned with a damp rag. Remove rough or splintered wood with fine sandpaper. Apply linseed to wooden handles.



Photo by Jane Collier

Sharpening Garden Tools



Tool Sharpening Supplies

- Safety Glasses
- Leather Gloves
- Files
- Diamond or ceramic hone
- File card
- Light machine oil such as 3-in-1 Oil, for lubricating joints and coating metal surfaces to protect from rust.
- Shop rags; 2 or more dry, 1 oily
- Wire brush and 400 to 600 grit sand paper
- Table vise to secure the tool



Tool	Number of blade need sharpening	Sides of blade need sharpening
Hand pruner	One	One
Lopper	One	One
Grass shear	One	Both
Shovel	One	One
Hoe	One	One
Picks, mattocks, axe	One	Both
Hay fork	Many	Each tine sharpened to a dull point

Sharpening Your Garden Tools
<https://cmastergardeners.files.wordpress.com/2022/02/sharpen-garden-tools.pdf>



<https://www.finegardening.com/article/clean-sharp-tools-work-better>

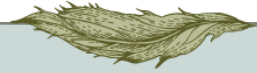
Steps to Sharpen Your Garden Tools

1. Determine which surface needs sharpening
2. Start with a clean tool
3. Steady the tool with a vise or on a bench with your knee.
4. Set sharpening angle
5. Begin to sharpen
 - Use the file to take long even strokes across the entire length on the metal surface
 - Cutting tools use a fine diamond or stone hone, starting at the joint and working to the tip
 - Continue this fluid stroking motion until a shiny sharp edge develops
6. Add finishing touches: gently use file to remove burrs on the opposite side of edge.

Precautions during sharpening

- Protect your eyes with safety glasses
- Protect your hands with leather gloves

Storage & Tool Preparation



Steps to Preserve Your Garden Tools

- Use a brush to clean off any dirt, then a dry rag
- Remove sap with a solvent such as mineral spirits or household foaming bathroom cleaner
- Follow up with fine steel wool
- Remove rust with a wire brush and/or sandpaper
- When the blade is clean, wipe all metal surfaces with a lightly oiled rag
- Wooden parts should have any rough spots cleaned up by trimming off and sanding smooth. Coat wood with a coating of linseed or mineral oil with a rag.



<https://www.finegardening.com/article/clean-sharp-tools-work-better>

Storage of Garden Tools



Steps to Stow Your Garden Tools

- Identify a clean and dry storage space
- Install hooks, racks or brackets for tools. Hang Tools.
- Wooden handles should not have contact with dirt.



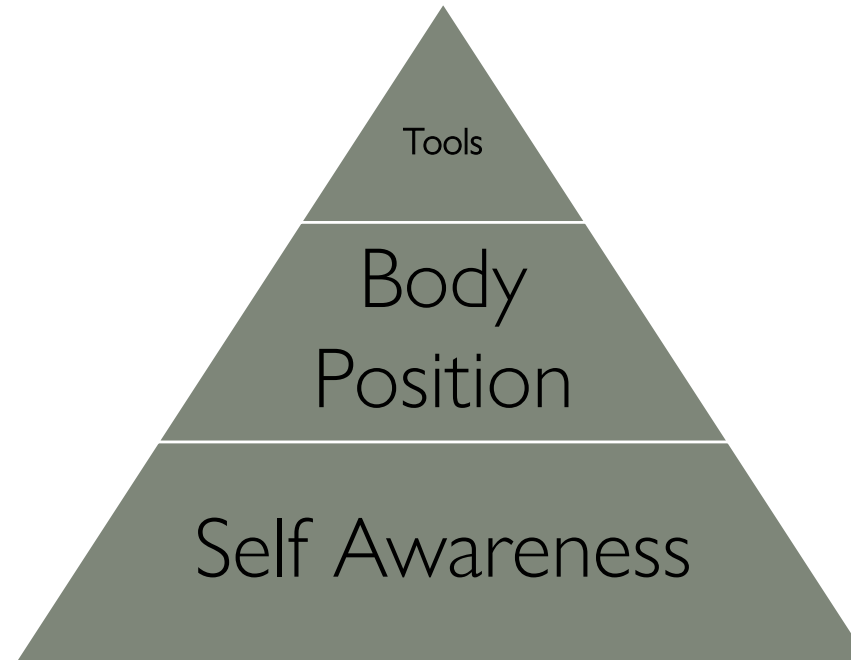
This Photo by CC BY



This Photo by CC BY

Safety, Prevention and Ergonomics

Body Position & Tools Count!



GARDENING HAND-TOOL SAFETY

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/safety/files/3108.pdf>

<https://www.myotspot.com/day-in-the-life-of-an-ergonomics-occupational-therapist/>

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In Review

- **The right tools can help us be more effective with our gardening tasks.**
 - Optimum tools help us with our cultural practices in the garden.
 - The materials and construction of a tool affect the tools' overall life and efficiency.
 - **The use of clean and sharp tools optimizes our work efforts in the garden.**
 - Regular tool maintenance keeps our tools clean, sharp and prolongs their life.
 - **Ergonomics is...the science of work: how people go about doing tasks with less stress and strain on joints and muscles in the garden.**
 - Specialized or modified tools help keep our body and joints in neutral positions
 - Self-awareness, good posture and preventive actions helps us stay healthy and working in our garden.
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Resources

Sustainable Gardening

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/em-8742-sustainable-gardening-oregon-washington-master-gardener-handbook>

Vegetable Gardening

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/ec-871-vegetable-gardening-oregon>

Care and Maintenance of Garden Tools

<https://cmastergardeners.files.wordpress.com/2022/02/garden-tool-care.pdf>

Practical Tools for the Vegetable Gardener

[An Educator's Guide to Vegetable Gardening \(oregonstate.edu\)](#)

Sharpening Your Garden Tools

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/sites/default/files/sharpgdn_insig_hsts2012.pdf

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) For Home Gardens

<https://cmastergardeners.files.wordpress.com/2023/11/ipm-for-home-gardens.pdf>

An Educator's Guide to Vegetable Gardening

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/em9032.pdf>



Resources

Gardening Hand-Tool Safety

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/safety/files/3108.pdf>

Fine Gardening

<https://www.finegardening.com/article/clean-sharp-tools-work-better>

Can you dig it - The Ergonomics of Gardening

<https://www.slideshare.net/ElisaMendelsohn/can-you-dig-it-the-ergonomics-of-gardening>

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<https://www.myotspot.com/day-in-the-life-of-an-ergonomics-occupational-therapist/>

The Truth About Stretching

<https://www.webmd.com/fitness-exercise/features/how-to-stretch>

Video-Garden Answers

How to Clean & Sharpen Your Garden Tools! 🛠️ 👍 // Garden Answer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzpKDkIOkJM>

Resources

Fox, J, How to Buy the Right Plants, Tools & Garden Supplies, Timberpress.com. 2013

Guerra, Michael, *The Edible Container Garden*, Gaia Books Limited, New York, New York. 2000

DK, *How to Garden – A Practical Guide to Gardening*, Penguin Random House, New York, New York. 2021

