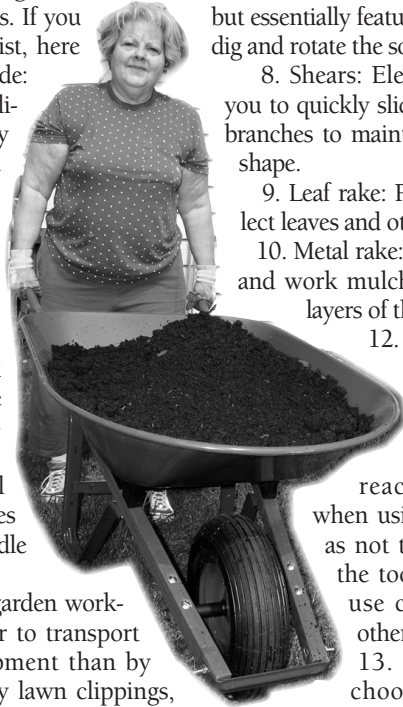


## Gardener's toolbox

# Necessary tools for lawn/garden work

Prior to making any landscaping plans, make an assessment of your tool portfolio. Make note of anything you might need to accomplish goals outdoors. If you need help compiling your list, here are some good items to include:



1. Trowel: A strong, quality trowel will make easy work of overturning soil and getting to the root of weeds.

2. Shovel: There are many shovels out there, but finding one that fits your stature will make work much easier. Look for a shovel with a handle that reaches your shoulders, the width of the bar fitting comfortably in your hands. Forged or stainless steel will last longer, particularly ones with an all-in-one steel handle and head shovel.

3. Wheelbarrow: This garden workhorse makes it much easier to transport heavy materials and equipment than by hand. Also, easily cart away lawn clippings, rocks and soil.

4. Spade: A sharp-edged spade will make it easier to divide perennials. Forged steel is not rustproof but will hold up better against hard objects like rocks under the soil.

5. Pruners: Pruning is a must in every garden. Removing dead and diseased plant parts as well as cutting back overgrowth will ensure healthier plants and shrubbery. Ergonomic and mechanically assisted models allow you to cut through thick branches with minimal strain on your hands.

6. Hoe: A hoe allows you to cultivate, weed and mix as you push and pull the soil.

7. Cultivator: These come in many styles but essentially feature claw-like spikes that will dig and rotate the soil to loosen and aerate it.

8. Shears: Electronic models will allow you to quickly slice through thick shrubbery branches to maintain an appealing and neat shape.

9. Leaf rake: Plastic or wood prongs collect leaves and other debris.

10. Metal rake: Metal prongs overturn soil and work mulch or compost into the top layers of the ground.

12. Trimmer: This motorized device features plastic strings that spin quickly enough to shear through tall growth and in hard-to-reach spots. Just be careful when using around tree trunks, so as not to damage the bark. Also, the tool may kick up debris, so use caution around pets and other people.

13. Mower: Whether you choose a manual, electronic-assisted or ride-on variety, make sure the mower fits your needs.

14. Hose: From coiled to drip irrigation models, there are hoses for all of your landscape requirements.

15. Edger: Give your lawn a clean, manicured look by trimming away any stray blades around the perimeter.

16. Lawn chair: After all of the hard work you put into caring for your outdoor landscape, you'll need a place where you can put your feet up and enjoy the view!

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