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ORIGINAL PAPER



Garden tools and their uses

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The tool that are used for gardening and landscaping. These may be hand tools and power tools made up of metals and wood that facilitates the various gardening operations like planting, weeding, nursery and seed bed preparation, digging of holes, inter-culture operations, cutting, irrigation, pruning, propagation, mixing of soil amendments, loosening the soil and transportation, etc. and saves time and energy.

Some important garden tools are as follows:

- **Spade:** It consists a flat blade made up of cast iron and fitted with long wooden handle and used for digging of pits or holes for planting, removal of deep rooted plants, weed removal, loosening and moving of soil, preparation of bunds and seed beds.
- **Shovel:** It is very important tools in gardening used for digging of pits, loosening, turning and moving the soil and mixing of amendments like manures and fertilizers into the soil.



Plate 1: Spade



Plate 2: Showel

- **Khurpi:** It is an important hand tool used for planting seeds or seedlings, digging or loosening the soil, removal of weeds, scooping of soil and harvesting of root vegetables. It consists of cast iron blade fitted with wooden handle at one side.
- **Sickle:** It is the most common and important garden tool consisting a curved blade with wooden handle. It is used for cutting the grasses or weeds and harvesting the vegetables or other crops.



Plate 3: Khurpi



Plate 4: Sickle

- **Mower:** A tool with high-carbon steel blades that are mounted spirally over a shaft that rotates at high speed and cut the grasses in lawns and also in the fields. Also consists a grass box at the back for collecting cut grass while working.
- **Bulb Planter:** This tool is used to plant the bulbs or other plants requiring similar sized holes by digging small pits or holes into the ground and also used to pack the soil again in the same hole.



Plate 5: Mower



Plate 6: Bulb Planter

- **Lopper:** A tool with long handles, strong and sharp blades used to cut the branches above your height without using ladder.
- **Digging Fork:** Digging fork is used for digging of soil to break the soil clumps. Also works well with soils that are extremely compacted and rocky.
- **Hedge Shear:** It consists of two blades made up of high carbon steel, and tongs with wooden handles. It is used for trimming, cutting and pruning of hedges or shrubs to make them attractive or to give a shape.



Plate 7: Lopper



Plate 8: Digging Fork



Plate 9: Hedge Shear

- **Garden Rake:** This tool is used for smoothing or clearing the soil by removing materials like stones, pebbles, clogs, wood, plastic and metals from soil and breaks the soil surface to a fine tilth to make it ideal for planting of seeds or seedlings. Also used for collecting the debris and raking of fallen leaves.
- **Mattock:** This tool is mainly used for removal of weeds by cultivating the soil. It consists of sharp blade that scraps or clear the soil without the need to bend. It can be used for various intercultural operations like hoeing and shallow weeding.



Plate 10: Garden Rake



Plate 11: Mattock

- **Secateur:** It is looks like scissors that are used for cutting and shaping the plants by removing dead, diseased or undesired plant parts. It consists of two blades one is sharp and another is blunt and are made up of high carbon or alloy steel, and copper respectively. It is used for pruning, cutting, disbudding, de shooting, defoliation and topping of small trees by holding the branch between the blades and pressing the handles together to cut the branch.

- **Hand Cultivator:** It is used for cultivating the soil or for altering or loosening it without damaging the plant roots in the soil. Also used for removal of weed operations.
- **Hand weeder:** It is a simple tool which is used for removing weeds from beds, edges of garden lawn and around the trees. It consists of two thin metal poles ending with two forking tines that are also used to loosen the soils.



Plate 12: Secateur



Plate 13: Hand Cultivator

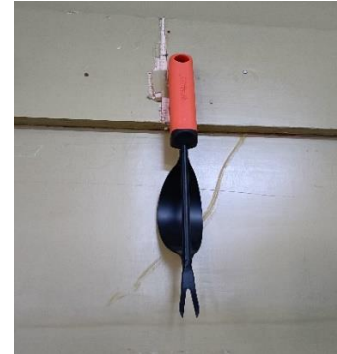


Plate 14: Hand weeder

- **Pruning Saw:** It is used in cutting of thicker or larger branches of trees or shrubs. These are available with straight blade and with curved blade to use in cutting of greenwood and large branches respectively.
- **Budding-cum-grafting knife:** It is a combination of budding and grafting knives, and used for both grafting and budding operations. This consists of two alloy steel or high carbon blades at the ends of the knife handle to carry out both grafting and budding.
- **Watering Can:** It is a container used for watering the plants, nursery beds, seedbeds and potted plants. It contains a sprinkle nozzle to avoid any damage to young plants due to washing off the soil from roots.



Plate 15: Pruning Saw



Plate 16: Budding-cum-grafting knife



Plate 17: Watering Can

CONCLUSION

The garden tools not only important for crop production but also we can use for various intercultural operations by saving time. These are the tools and equipment, designed to perform different operations, help in carrying out day-to-day farm tasks efficiently and easily which are economical. The majority of tasks that ensure good crop production in gardening are carried out using garden tools.