

How to make Gardening Easier

By Janet Hill and Elizabeth Fraser
Littleton Garden Club

From Janet Hill

With any endeavor, the tools you use can make all the difference between how successful you are and how easy [or stressful] your task is. This is especially true with gardening. Here are some of the tools that the members of the Littleton Gardening Club have found to be helpful.

The big hit this season was a newly designed shovel. There are various versions, with scary names like Root Slayer and Assassin. They can be found at any of the box stores and on Amazon. The shovels feature serrated teeth and a sharp, narrow cutting edge that rips through dirt, roots and other obstructions with ease. It is especially effective in dividing plants like day lilies, hostas, and Siberian irises that grow very densely and will take over your flower beds if they get half a chance. This tool has a smaller sibling. Mine is called the Kobalt Root Slayer Soil Knife. I bought it at the end of the gardening season and have not had an opportunity to test it, but anticipate good results.

I think that I would not continue to garden as I have aged, were it not for my kneeling stool and seat. There are many versions of this metal stool. If it does not have a soft seat, you can buy a foam pad for a few dollars. It has raised handles on which you can brace yourself to get up. No more crawling about on hands and knees. Some versions fold up and some have handy pockets for tools. The Deep Seat Garden Kneeler, available from Gardeners.com, is extra wide for more stability and has added cushioning for comfort.

Here are more suggestions from the New York Times Wirecutter. Everyone needs a medium-sized container when doing some gentle weeding. The Tubtrugs Medium Tub is ideal. And for days of more serious work, Gardeners Supply has the Puddleproof Tote, excellent for carrying assorted tools. The Damm 7 liter watering can is sturdy and has a long spout. And if you want to know more precisely how much precipitation the clouds have provided, Stratus makes a good rain gauge.

From Elizabeth Fraser

A discussion about garden tools would not be complete without mentioning the positive impact of rechargeable batteries. Key lawn and garden tools designed with gas powered engines are now also available with these batteries and include string trimmers, hedge trimmers, blowers, lawn mowers and chain saws of all sizes. As you plan your purchases, it is a good idea to buy from a single manufacturer so that you can use the same battery pack for all your tools.

The benefits of battery powered equipment include easy start up, zero emissions, lower noise levels, and there is no gas or fuel to mix. The rope pull start on gas-powered tools

is a barrier for a lot of people as they are not strong enough to yank the rope with sufficient strength and speed to start the combustion engine. With battery operated tools it is now possible to do the weed wacking, pruning tree branches, and mowing the lawn with the push of a button to start the equipment. Thanks to rechargeable batteries, a broader communities of gardeners are now able to accomplish tasks that they previously relied on others to perform.

And finally, don't forget to treat your self to new gardening gloves. You can find them at Revive 365 on Main Street in Littleton. They are sold year-round as a fund raiser for the Littleton Garden Club.

Happy gardening!

Littleton Garden Club is very active in the community. We welcome new members from around the area. Visit our website to learn more: <https://www.littletonnhgardenclub.org/>