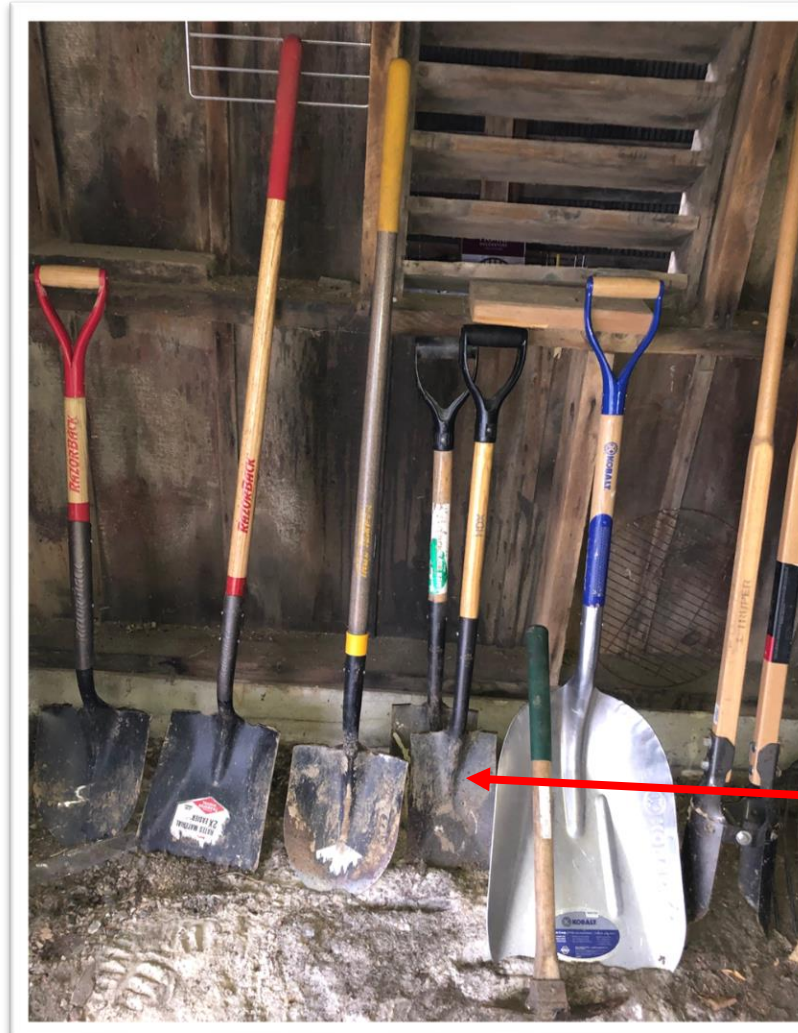


Garden Tools Quick Tips

The following presentation is meant to help identify useful tools and to discuss useful ways of selecting long-lasting items when there are many options available.

All shovels are meant to dig but not all shovels are created equal. I have accrued a variety of shovels meant to optimize a particular job:

- Spade shovel is best for digging deep, wide holes such as for transplanting a bush or tree
- Flat shovel is great for taking even scoops off the top and moving from point A to B
- Square shovel is best for edging and cutting roots in the ground
- Coal shovel is the best for moving large volume from point A to B such as mulch, compost or top soil
- Not pictured are trench shovels for digging narrow channels
- Pick axe for tough dirt, rocks, roots
- Post Hole Digger (not a shovel but useful)



Other Highlights:

- I own multiple sets of my most important types of shovels
- Owning a variety of types makes each one last longer
- All my shovels have an easy grip handle to reduce blisters
 - Calloused hands also reduce blisters 😊
- I select wooden handles with a pinned or screwed shovel so they can be repaired easier
- **If I had to choose only one to keep it would be the short handle square blade shovel**

Garden Tools Quick Tips

Here are other useful long handle tools. Notice the shape of the tool and how it could be used:

- Pitch Fork for turning compost piles
- Hoe for spreading mulch or top soil around, digging weeds, cutting roots
- Two-Edge Weed Tool (and backup Hoe)
- Stiff Rake for spreading mulch, topsoil, gravel
- Tree branch cutter - can be used on medium to small diameter branches
- I don't know the name but there are two flat blade tools in the front that I will use to dig rows for planting seeds
 - (I can also use my hand to dig holes for seeds for small projects)



Other Highlights:

- I select wooden handles with pinned or screwed shovel so they can be repaired easier
- **If I had to choose only one to keep it would be the Hoe because it is very ergonomic (saves my back) for spreading or busting up weeds and tough spots in my garden**
 - Stiff rakes are a close second
- Not pictured are leaf rakes. I own multiple sizes, plastic and metal
 - For the same reason I own multiple shovels; having more makes them last longer
 - Having more also means more people can help me rake leaves!

Garden Tools Quick Tips

In the photo are multiple cutting tools and a sledge hammer.

- The axes can be used to cut large tree branches or large roots in the ground
 - This is not a talk about splitting wood so I won't define the different types and uses, but I will point out that I have backups and a variety of axes
- Sledge hammer is actually great for tearing out bushes and other heavy jobs that require smashing large things into little things
- Machete for cutting small branches, stalks and brush
- Hedge trimmers for shaping foliage



Other Highlights:

- Yes, one tool is in the package because I just bought it to try. It is called a Billhook Saw and is used for sawing branches, and cutting tall weeds or crops

Garden Tools Quick Tips

Other Miscellaneous tools I keep in the barn:

- Bolt cutters – medium for cutting wire fence
- Spud bar (at the top of the photo) for busting up thick dirt, unseating rocks and digging deep hole
- Branch Cutters for medium/large branches/roots
- Small handle branch cutter for small trimming
- Zip ties for fencing
- Sturdy garden scissors for plant harvesting, pruning, twine, string, opening packaging, etc.
- Utility box cutting knife with backup razor blades
- Wire snips for fencing and zip ties
- Tape Measure – 25 feet
- Not shown is a measuring wheel for long distances
- Hand stapler with the option for multiple geometry types of fasteners
- Leather gloves with plush palms
- Welding gloves – for heat protection or when sturdy leather gloves are required (like picking up a barn cat!)



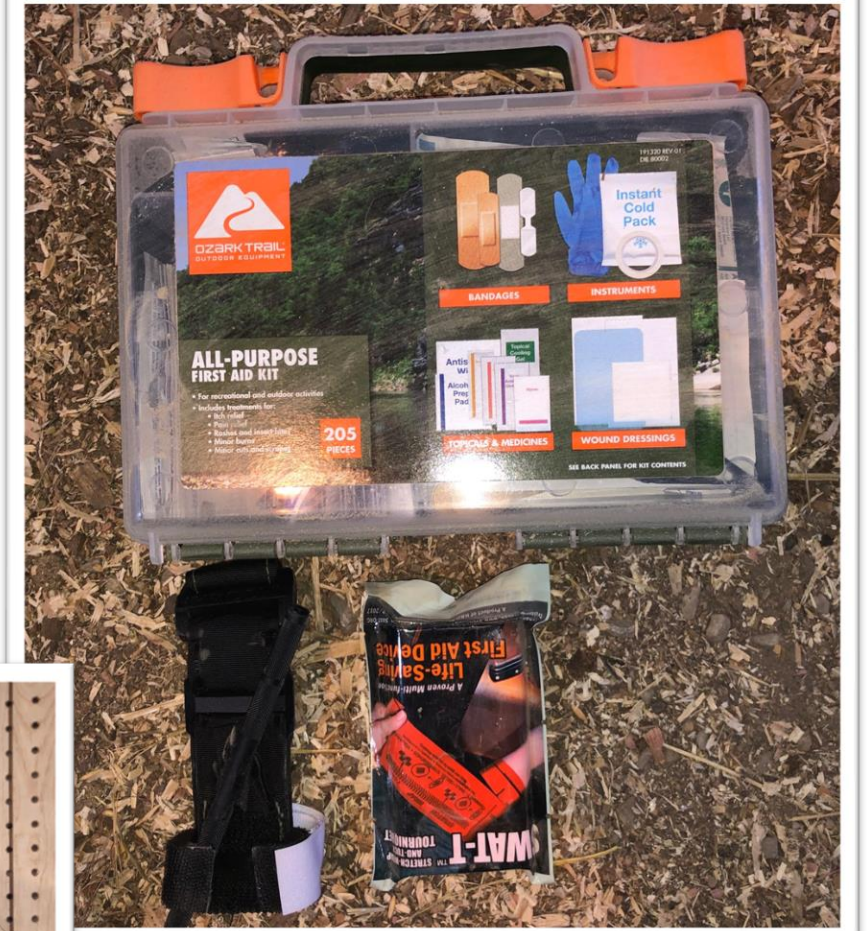
Other Highlights:

- I bought a cheap stapler and it broke pretty quick so invest in a mid to high grade stapler
- All gloves, expensive or cheap, will need to be replaced; what you pay for is how frequently they need to be replaced

Garden Tools Quick Tips

Other Considerations:

- Basic first aid. I always include tourniquets for more serious injuries but training is key for knowing how to use them
 - Hydrogen peroxide for cleaning cuts quickly
- Footwear that can be cleaned easily (with a hose)
- Sun hats that your significant other doesn't mind you wearing



Garden Tools Quick Tips

Other Considerations:

- Spreader for seeds, fertilizer, natural pest control products. If you use herbicides or commercial pesticides have a separate one from the one you use for seeds
- Wheelbarrow – I chose metal with a “never flat” tire which requires no air
- Hand tools for small projects
- Watering can
- Buckets with lids to carry water
- Yard flags for labeling and marking crop locations

