

Types of Horticulture Tools

Types of Horticulture Tools – Quick Reference Notes

1. Soil Working Tools

Used to prepare, loosen, and maintain planting beds.

Tool	Primary Use	Key Features	Typical Materials
Hand Trowel	Dig small holes, transplant seedlings	Small, pointed blade; ergonomic handle	Stainless steel blade, wood or composite handle
Garden Fork / Spade Fork	Turn soil, break clods, lift plants	Wide tines (3-5), sturdy head	Carbon steel tines, wood or fiberglass handle
Garden Spade	Edge planting beds, cut sod, lift soil	Flat, rectangular blade; sharp edge	Hardened steel blade, reinforced grip
Hoe (draw/loop)	Weed removal, surface cultivation	Long handle, flat or scalloped blade	Steel blade, wooden or fiberglass shaft
Cultivator (hand/stand-up)	Aerate soil, mix compost	Tines arranged in a circle or V-shape	Hardened steel tines, adjustable height
Mattock	Break hard ground, remove roots	Dual-head: axe side + adze side	Forged steel head, long wooden handle

2. Planting & Transplanting Tools

Facilitate moving plants safely and efficiently.

Tool	Primary Use	Distinguishing Traits
Transplanting Spade	Lift seedlings without root damage	Narrow, deep blade; often “bypass” edge
Bulb Planter	Plant bulbs at uniform depth	Cylindrical tube with depth stop
Seed Sower (hand-held)	Distribute seed evenly	Adjustable aperture, built-in seed hopper
Planting Auger	Drill holes for large plants/trees	Rotating drill bit, often powered
Root Pruner	Trim roots during transplant	Curved blade with a cutting edge

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3. Pruning & Cutting Tools

Maintain plant shape, remove dead material, and encourage growth.

Tool	Typical Cuts	Special Features
Pruning Shears (secateurs)	Small stems ? ½?in (13? mm)	Bypass blades, ergonomic grip, spring? loaded
Loppers	Branches ½–2?in (13–50? mm)	Long handles, compound leverage, bypass or anvil
Pruning Saw	Branches > 2?in (50?mm)	Fine teeth (6?10 TPI), curved blade, non? rust steel
Hedge Shears	Hedge shaping, foliage trimming	Long blades (12?24?in), offset handles
Pole Pruner	High branches up to 20?ft (6?m)	Telescoping pole, cutting head on a rope? trigger
Garden Scissors	Delicate flower or herb work	Small, precise blades, often stainless steel

4. Harvesting Tools

Designed for picking fruit, vegetables, and cut flowers.

Tool	Crop Type	Design Highlights
Harvesting Knife	Root crops, melons	Curved blade, sturdy handle, often with a “bird’s beak” tip
Fruit Picker (with basket)	Apples, citrus, high?bush fruit	Extendable pole, soft gripping basket, spring? loaded clamp
Berry Picker	Strawberries, raspberries	Wide, shallow basket, gentle tines

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