



# 10 ESSENTIAL TOOLS FOR CONTAINER GARDENING

## A bit about Container Gardening Tools...

Planting containers doesn't have to be complicated or labor intensive. You can simplify the process with having the right tools and supplies. Here are some of my favorites that will have you container gardening like a pro. Most items can be found at your local garden center, hardware store or online suppliers.



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## 5G BUCKET W/CADDY AND LID

The 5 Gallon Bucket with a Bucket Caddy and a Bucket Seat Lid offers a comfortable seated position that relieves your back from the strain of bending over from a standing position. The bucket caddy frees up internal bucket space for tools and supplies that aren't used as often and puts those used more frequently at your fingertips.

## GLOVES

Essential for protecting your hands and the plant material. I like colorful gloves that are easy to spot and recommend backup pairs for you and each member of your crew for when one gets lost or is in the wash.

## HORI HORI KNIFE

The Hori Hori is an ideal tool for digging out plants that are close to each other. The shape and sharpness of the blade make it easy to reach into tight spaces, loosen the soil, divide plants, and uproot even the most root bound plants with ease. I prefer a stainless-steel Hori Hori because it is lightweight and smooth, easy to sharpen, and mud rarely gets stuck on the blade. The Niwaki Hori Hori is my favorite although a bit more expensive.

## HAND CULTIVATOR

A great tool for digging bulbs and breaking up the soil and rooted material in a container. I prefer a three-pronged cultivator with a rubber coated hand grip. As with many of these hand tools, make sure that the grip of the tool is comfortable in your hand. I personally prefer a longer handle when working in containers though you may prefer a shorter one. Dewitt and Fiskars both offer great options.

## FOLDING SAW/SOIL KNIFE

The folding saw works great as a soil knife and for pruning limbs that are greater than 1" in diameter. I use a 10" Corona saw with an ergonomic non-slip handle and appreciate having the extra length and stainless-steel teeth to cut through roots and soil. The Silky saw is another option. Both saws fold up for safety and carried in a pocket of the bucket caddy.

## BYPASS HAND PRUNER

Great for making clean cuts and trimming woody plant material, stems, and small branches. There are many suitable options but no matter which brand you choose, make sure to purchase a pair that has sharp blades that are resistant to rust. I prefer Stihl pruners but Felco is another brand of proven quality.

## GARDENING TRUG

The Recycled Rubber Gardening Trug is extremely handy for carrying tools and supplies, collecting plant material, hauling compost and mixing soil, It's lightweight and flexible making it easy to hold with just one handle if needed and comes in a variety of colors which I absolutely LOVE.

## TROWEL

The hand trowel is used for mixing soil, digging holes for plants, removing plant material, and scooping and shoveling potting soil from the bag into a container. Make sure to get a trowel with a comfortable grip and a spade made of a durable, heavy metal that lasts throughout the seasons. Aluminum will be cheaper but has less longevity. I prefer a trowel with an ergonomic hand grip, rubber coating and a loop at its end for easy hanging and storing.

## SNIPS

Essentially small scissors with pointed blades and great for deadheading flowers. They are useful for precisely snipping leaves and stems of plant material less than 1/4" wide. Snips with a straight blade and slim-pointed nose made with corrosion resistant material like steel or titanium are best. I recommend Corona Snips with a colored handle, so they are easy to find while working.

## TARPS

Tarps are used for easy cleanup and to protect work surfaces. We like a tarp with a leak resistant poly-backing that's reusable. Wrap the tarp around the base of the pot to catch any soil, plant material, fertilizer or other possible spillage. When you've finished planting, roll up the tarp, shake it out into a yard waste bag and pack it for reusing next time.