



5518 President George Bush Hwy
Rowlett, TX 75089
(972) 475-5888
www.covingtonnursery.com

What You Should Know - Lawn and Garden Tools

The first tool you'll need, simply, is knowledge! Use our online resources at www.covingtonnursery.com for helpful timing and task advice for WHEN and HOW to do the things you'll need to do. As for the tools you'll want to work with in the yard, most homeowners will need the following as basics:

Lawnmower: Get as fancy as you wish and your budget will afford, as long as it's reliable and easy to start. Basic maintenance includes cleaning the mower blade occasionally, sharpening it at least once a year, and making sure all the wheels are at the same mowing height.

String Trimmer: Commonly referred to as a "Weedeater". As long as it starts easily and isn't too heavy, any gas powered trimmer is fine. Electrics just don't hold up to hard jobs.

Fertilizer Spreader: You'll need one that is able to hold up to forty pounds of fertilizer in the hopper without bending the wheel axle below. Rotary spreaders get the job done faster, with less walking around.

Wheelbarrow: Save yourself time and hassle. Get a wheelbarrow cart with TWO wheels, they're easier to handle. Whether the bed is thick plastic, metal, or fiberglass, you'll need one eventually.

Hand Tools: Select the **proper tools** for the job. Here are a few basic hand tools every gardener needs:

- **Bypass Pruners** (hand sized) - one pair that can be sharpened or has a replaceable blade. (They work much better than anvil pruners.)
- **Loppers** - longer handled, aluminum or fiberglass handles are best for reducing effort and durable.
- **Hedge Shears** - powered or unpowered, as long as they're sharp and the blades cut closely.
- **Trowel or Transplanter** – one-piece solid aluminum is the best.
- **Long-Handled Round Point Shovel** - (LHRP shovel) - this is the mainstay, your basic landscaping shovel. Pick a shovel that is not too heavy, but is strong enough to put up with whatever force you can physically bring to bear on it. Fiberglass handles are ideal.
- **Pruning Saw** - some cuts are just too big to get with loppers. Folding or fixed, as long as it's sharp!
- **Gloves** - everyone has their favorite, but latex or nitrile dipped cloth gives good hand protection with good flexibility. Heavier leather gloves for working with thorny plants. A pair of each is a good idea.
- **Rakes** - one leaf rake and one garden rake. They're not the same. A leaf rake is a lightweight, wide mouthed rake great for cleaning up large areas at a time of light material, while a garden rake is a heavier tool, appropriate for cleaning up cut branches, twigs, spreading mulch, etc.
- **A tape measure!** Accurate measurements will let you plan for the right amount of materials ahead of time, instead of running back up to the store constantly. If you don't know how much material you need for a bed, accurate measurements will help your nursery professional determine how much to recommend to you.
- **Water Hose** - get a 3/4" ID water hose. This refers to the inner diameter of the hose. 5/8" hoses are cheaper, but it will take you nearly twice as long to water your plants properly with one and they kink up more.

When it comes to tools, just like most things, you tend to get what you pay for. Invest in good tools, even if they cost more, and they'll last longer and make your jobs easier...saving you time, effort and frustration. Poor quality tools will cause you to work harder to get the job done, and they usually break sooner. Buy specialty tools only if you end up needing them enough to make the purchase worthwhile.