Master Gardener's Favorite Tools

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1 Master Gardener Larry Wrestle Class 2019: My favorite tool is a combo hand cultivator/hoe. I use it for multiple purposes, such as weeding, digging up roots, and starting holes for planting.

2 Master Gardener Stu Dalton Class 2016: Most used for my 250+ roses, fruit trees and orchids and everything woody are bypass pruners aka garden shears. Favorite brand based on durability and design Felco. For my hand main one that fits a larger hand #2. In the last 40 years I had two pairs of this size and the first one was lost while still working. I bought other sizes and models of Felco. (#6,7,8, 20). When I teach rose pruning I also show how to sharpen with each use. This helps reduce hand effort and plant damage. Only brand used by Filoli gardeners. No, I don't own stock. I do have other shears I flame sterilize for orchids. Master Gardener Patty Deering has had hers for years.

3 Master Gardener Susan Kornfeld Class 2016: Okay, easy-peasy: I (of course) love my hand pruner: Stihl PP60 hand bypass pruner: it's made for smaller hands, sharpens beautifully, and works perfectly. I prefer it to Felco. It's cheaper than a corresponding Felco.

4 Master Gardener Helen Lew Class 2016: My favorite tool is the Hula Hoe by Corona
I have a 60" hoe, but the 6" hand held looks good too. It is easy to use and really works in getting new weeds out when the soil is pretty soft.

5 Master Gardener Susan Kornfeld Class 2016: Second: a Japanese weeding sickle. It scrapes weeds cleanly, separating crown from root; it can make seed furrows; it can make holes for 6-pack plants; it can dig out bigger weeds, like sow thistle. These two tools I use on almost every job (fine gardening). The pruners just stay in my hip pocket.

6 Master Gardeners Bruce Goren Class 2015, Janice Moody, Patty Deering and Leslie Muennemann Class of 2008: That has to be my wood handled, stainless steel Hori Hori garden knife, which is Japanese for "Dig Dig". Great for weeding, digging, transplanting, measuring, bag cutting . . . almost any task you can think of. Serrated edge on one side, smooth and sharp on the other. Leslie added that it has multi use trowel, weeder, knife, marker, ruler etc.

7 Master Gardener Leslie Muennemann Class 2008: Learned about diamond tool sharpeners from the late Master Gardener Alan Ernat. They come in three grades and do an excellent job.

8 Master Gardener Janice Moody Class 2010:And here's another: Nisaku Stainless Steel Weed Sweeper.

9 Master Gardener David Dea Class 2018: Here's a couple of photos of my favorite gardening tool(s), can't decide either the Falco #2 pruner or the hand mattock, I use them both all of the time, the mattock for digging, making planter basins-big and small, cutting roots, weeding the list goes on. You know about the pruner, after every use I clean it with a nylon scrub brush, frequently clean the blade area with 0000 steel wool to remove dry sap, then rub the area with 30 wt. motor oil.

10 Master Gardener Melissa Mason Class 2015: I love the Corona Clipper Precision Cutting Hydroponic Snips (other brands available). They are around $10, light weight, six inches long and fit in my pocket or purse. This makes them readily available when ever the obsessive urge to dead head or to procure cuttings becomes overwhelming. Far better than an index finger and a thumb nail.