

Gloves

Of all the gardening tools available today, good gloves are among the most essential. Yes, they do create a barrier between the gardener and organic material, an interruption that troubles the more holistically minded, but the other side of the coin is arguably worse, consisting of painful cuts, splinters, and broken fingernails. And with the advancement of textile technology, the bulky seams and clunky fabrics of the past have given way to versatile materials that no longer hinder dexterity—at least not in any dramatic way. It is now possible to get gloves that are breathable and hardy, waterproof and washable, and, for the thornier jobs like pruning roses, sturdy leather gauntlet styles that protect both hand and wrist. —●



Watering Can

Dating back to the seventeenth century, watering cans were an early addition to the modern gardener's toolkit. Their key design feature is the rose, the cap on the spout that disrupts the water stream, negotiating a gentle dispersion over delicate flowers while also providing enough water for a deep drenching if required—perfect for flowerbeds on the terrace or balcony. —●



Scissors and Hand Rake

Having the right tools can be the difference between a garden's success and failure. Using instruments unsuited to the purpose at hand can damage flowers, the risks becoming even more present when dealing with teeming flowerbeds on patios and balconies. For these fragile and involved environments, the sizes of the tools are extremely important, and the higher-quality instruments, though more expensive,

are usually more accurate and longer lasting. Garden scissors come in many varieties, from oversized loppers to miniature pruning shears. ① Medium-sized units are particularly suited to terrace gardens with robust plants, like wooden stemmed roses or small trees. On top of the protection provided by gloves, some pairs of

scissors offer added security via circular grips that enclose the hand, making them ideal for thorny jobs. ② Smaller varieties of scissors, by contrast, should be used to trim flowers in congested container gardens. Their slightness provides the gardener with the dexterity necessary for navigating tight areas without disrupting other nearby plants.

③ Another valuable tool for flowerbeds is the hand rake. These can be used to clean away fallen foliage in a controlled way, as they are easy to maneuver in confined spaces. One of the most important features of these tools is a strong connection between handle and metal, and choosing a brightly colored instrument is a good idea for the forgetful. —●