

## Suggested equipment

You don't need to spend a fortune on equipment, and you don't NEED to lug around a huge tool bag, but most of us do.

### Gloves

If you have thorn proof gardening gloves or welding gauntlets they work fine. The gold standard (IMHO) are Ripeur 2 leather puncture resistant glove these last ages and are really resistant to thorns

<http://safetyhut.co.uk/product.aspx?productid=207>

Some people also have forearm protectors made from leather, or an old Jacket. Stout boots, waterproof trousers, knee pads can all be useful.



### Billhook

There are many designs, just pick one you like.

Things to look for –

we tend to prefer oval handles rather than round as these are less likely to twist  
don't pick a heavy one, you have to use it for hours!

### Axe

As with the Billhook pick one which is comfortable for you

Things to look for –

a side axe is good, but can be expensive

### Pruning saw

Any good sharp pruning saw will work, the best are made by silky but are expensive (note that most cut on the PULL stroke)



### Loppers

Telescopic arms are useful for reaching high up, and a ratchet action gives you an advantage on tough stems. A good make is Corona

### Slasher

These look like something the grim reaper would use, and are handy for removing brambles etc.



### Podger/Beadle

Something for hitting stakes in this can be as simple as a shaped branch (see picture above). A Mall or Sledge hammer is equally effective, if a little heavier.

### Rake

Any garden rake, it is useful if you mark a spot 4' from the end - helps with hedge height

### General notes on all edge tools

- we find old ones are the best
- a good make e.g. Gilpin, Elwell, Nash, Brades, Swift etc.
- they must be sharp – really sharp.
- because they are sharp make sure you protect the edge
- make sure the handle is solidly fixed
- it might be easier to find a dropped tool if you add some bright tape or paint