



Tools

We all have gardening tools, some of them we really like, others never seem to work as they were advertised to do. Every so often I find a tool that is really useful. One of my favourites is the Collinear Hoe and yes it comes from one of my favourite places Lee Valley Tool. This hoe is designed for weeding and works very well in tight places. It is not intended to be used for moving soil or digging. It has 2 blades one 4 inches wide and the second 6 inches wide and they are sharp. You hold it the same way as a broom with the blade parallel to the ground, the blades are easily removed to change sizes and to sharpen. This hoe cuts weeds off at the surface,

removing the leaves removes their food source and usually they just dry up and die, then they can be raked up and disposed of in your compost bin or the city yard waste. It is long enough at 66 inches to let you work without bending over.

It makes removal of multiple small weed seedlings very simple; you can decapitate them by the hundreds! Without ever having to kneel down! I paid around \$50 for mine about 15 years ago, they are now \$59.50. I have seen somewhat similar tools elsewhere, but they are much heavier, more of a digging tool, are not sharp and not able to be sharpened.



Another useful tool is a set that includes a telescoping handle with 4 different tools that screw onto the end of the handle. It has as you can see a small fan rake, a soil rake, and a narrow trowel which works very well to dig up small plants and equally well as a dandelion digger. The crack weeder makes it simple to remove weeds in interlock paths and patios.

The handle extends from 25-41 inches so you can use this tool without bending over. This is also a Lee Valley product and costs about \$25. I often use the rakes as hand tools as well. I have had mine for about 20 years, I did have to replace the fan rake about 5 years ago, the plastic tip broke, however replacement pieces are available separately and I think it was about \$8.

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If you have garden questions please contact us at streetsvillehort@hotmail.com check out our website at www.streetsvillehort.ca