

Summer spruce

By Tanja Kern

ITCHING TO GET OUTDOORS AND GET A LITTLE DIRTY? WHY NOT?

Warmer, dryer weather brings with it the opportunity to get outside and continue to spruce up the garden. Whether it's cleaning up debris from the past rains, doing light pruning of bushes and trees, planting containers, or planning a vegetable garden or flower bed, the time has come to set your yard, plants, and outdoor chore schedule on the right course. No matter how much we all enjoy working in the garden, however, sometimes those projects can feel like we've bitten off more than we can chew.

With the joys of gardening in mind, we've rounded up 12 top tools that will surely save you time—and make your time outside just a little bit easier.



12 top tools guaranteed to jumpstart your new Eichler garden projects



1 BATTERY-POWERED SHEARS
These Stihl shears make light work for detail-oriented trimming jobs and precise cutting of ornamental shrubs. The blades run up to 110 minutes on a single charge. \$119. [Gardenlanddirect.com](#)

2 CLEANUP PRUNER
The Felco 2 pruner is great for all kinds of garden cleanup. Comfortable, light, sturdy handles are made of forged aluminum with a lifetime guarantee, and all parts can be replaced if needed. \$60. [Felco.com](#)

3 BIG-GRIP GARDEN KNIFE
This multifunctional knife by Fiskars includes a sharpened blade edge for slicing up sod or splitting seedlings, a serrated blade edge for breaking thicker growth, and a forked tip for removing roots. \$9. [Amazon.com](#)

4 RAZOR-TOOTH SAW
This pruning saw from Corona features a 13-inch curved blade designed for cleaner and faster cutting of medium to large branches and sawing through green or dry wood with ease. \$23. [Amazon.com](#)

5 EXPANDABLE STEEL RAKE
Work around various plants and in tight areas and with this Bond adjustable rake, which expands from 7.5 to 22 inches. \$23. [Houzz.com](#)

6 SELF-WATERING PLANTER
The Crescent Garden TruDrop planter features a self-watering system that work indoors or out. The containers are filled with water every two to six weeks (as needed) and irrigate plants from the roots up. Available in a rainbow of colors. Starting at \$111. [Lumens.com](#)

7 BRUSHLESS BLOWER
Clean up debris in a snap with the 20-Volt Dewalt Max Brushless Blower (DCBL720P1). It's lightweight and ergonomic, and the variable speed trigger and speed lock give you maximum control. \$329. [Homedepot.com](#)

8 POP-UP GARDEN BAG
This reusable, collapsible 30-gallon container will save you space when you're not using it. It folds down to a compact three inches for easy storage. \$40. [Vremi.com](#)

9 EXPANDABLE GARDEN HOSE
Forget about fighting with twists and kinks and dragging around a heavy hose. Turn on the water and this Dura-Flex Pro expands up to twice its size in just seconds. \$32. [Walmart.com](#)

10 DURABLE HOSE REEL
Worth displaying in the garden, this cleanly designed Eley hose reel is a durable alternative to plastic hose reels. Features rust-proof, aluminum-alloy construction, and non-slip rubber feet. Starting at \$179. [Eleyhosereels.com](#)

11 MAX-CONTROL RAIN WAND
A must-have for water restrictions, the Damm Touch-N-Flow rain wand is equipped with a lever-activated valve. Simply squeeze the lever to water, and release the lever to stop watering while moving from one plant to the next. \$20. [Amazon.com](#)

12 GREAT-GRIP GLOVES
These Atlas work gloves are popular among gardeners. A tough, textured rubber coating has great grip, and they are machine washable. \$4.50. [Amazon.com](#)

