



HAND HELD Pruners (Secateurs) SHARPENING Talk & DEMO



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WHY Sharpen Tools?

- Sharp cutters decrease the incidence of plant injury by making clean cuts that can heal well. Thus minimizing areas that invite disease or cause continued cracking, splitting, and vascular damage.
- *Clean, sharpened tools improve life of tool and reduces disease spread.*
- **DO IT SAFELY!!!!**
- Protect Eyes, Mask (if tools are very dirty or dusty)
- Rubber/Latex Gloves, (must be a good fit)
- well lit and ventilated area (seeing and breathing are important)



Materials are needed for cleaning and sharpening

Heavy Soil and RUST

- a) Gloves that are Latex or snag fitting fabric, leather, Eye protection. (Ear protection if using a powered tool).
- b) Tools with stuck on dirt: Need to use Wire Brush or Scrapper before Soaking.
- c) SOAKING Tools with stuck on Dirt: Container of WARM water w/ mild dish soap use brush to get rid of all dirt. (OR use Foaming spray instead) DRY thoroughly.
- d) RUSTY Tool: White Vinegar 5% (or 30% that needs baking soda 16:1 added) rinse w/ water & soda afterwards. DRY thoroughly.

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3

Materials are needed for cleaning and sharpening cont'd

Heavy Soil and RUST

- e) Vinegar soaks for 24 Hrs+. Commercial Rust remover - 10 min -6 hrs. soaks.
- f) Use Scouring pad, steel wool pads, wire brush, electric grinder, electric wire brush.
- g) Towels for drying.
- h) Assorted wrenches or pliers, screw drivers to disassemble hand tool. Container to hold pieces.
- i) Sharpening tools: stone, carbide, diamond sharpeners, Angle grinder.
- j) Lubricant with oil (light machine or Vegetable oil) or grease.

“If it rolls –oil it, if it slides use grease”.



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4

TOOLS That Need to be Sharpened

Regularly USED:

Any tool that is used for long periods of time to cut smaller stems and branches. Shears, loppers, hatchets, hand saws for larger branches.

Irregularly USED:

Any tool that cut / plows through the dirt or thick brush regularly:
Hoes, shovels, spades, picks, axes, lawn mower blades, Chainsaws.

Times between sharpening is dependent on materials pruned.



How To Clean Dirty Tools: LIGHT or NO RUST

- Remove the dirt-Scrap, soak, (1 Tbs Dish soap/5 gal)
- Remove sap- Warm water w/baking soda & soap works well
- Remove Rust: Steel Wool OR Foam sanding block fine grit
- Spray oven cleaner for stubborn dirt or goo.
- Disinfect as needed in Alcohol or Sprays
- Preserve in sand/oil bucket, or wraps





What do you need for: Heavy Rust

- Clean / scrap dirt etc. off tool first
- White Vinegar 5%. Shallow pan for soaking 24 -36 hrs
- Tools that give the ability to disassemble item
- Neutralize solution by brief dip into Baking soda and water bath
- Scrap, Rub with sandpaper, foam blocks, wire brush

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6

Sharpening the tool: BYPASS Pruners, Loopers, Long Handle Shears

- a) You are sharpening ***only ONE edge***. Hold the blade to be sharpened in a safe position in your hand or in a holding device, (Vise, clamps) for the larger tools.
- b) Decide what to sharpen and what to use to get the job done. (Stone, carbide, grinder)
- c) Mark the bevel with a Sharpie to help determine where to sharpen.
- d) Stroke sharpener across bevel in an away motion from you, 5-10x's depending on need.
- e) DO NOT sharpen the "Counter Blade" handle edge. Clean burs off with flat edge of sharpener. 1-3 passes.



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8

Sharpening the tool: ANVIL Shears

- Treat as a knife blade, you are sharpening ***both sides*** of the blade.
- They are used for DEADWOOD, thick branches and stems.
- The blades cuts down against a flat surface the “ANVIL”.
- Not used for living stems and branches as the remaining part is usually crushed by the compression on the Anvil side.

Sharpening a Shovel or spade, Hoe:

- SIMILAR process except everything is BIGGER.
- Use Electric grinders if comfortable using the them.



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9

Sharpening Tools-TIPS

- Remove Rust and dirt first: Dips, sandpaper, Wire brush, or steel wool
- Use sharpie marker on beveled edge to mark target and progress
- Disassemble as needed- Make sure you Retighten the nut afterwards.
- Oil edge if badly worn in order not to lose the temper of the steel when filing. (it can get hot)
- **Wipe moving parts with oil**, any light-weight oil or Vegetable oil, add drop to hinges and to spring.
- Lightly sand wooden handles and rub out with Linseed oil each year.



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10

Protecting the parts while in storage:

- a) Dry thoroughly all parts.
- b) Grease the sliding contact surfaces.
- c) Rub oil (machine, vegetable) on all metal surfaces including the spring.
- d) Rub Linseed Oil on tools with wooden handles
- e) Shears, loppers, chains, shovels, axes, hatchets, saws, can be stored in sand/oil buckets if they will not be used for several months.

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11

Process DEMO

CLEANING:

- Disassemble
- Warm water and soap
- Wire Brush / Scraper
- Steel Wool, Soap pads, Soaks, Oven cleaner sprays as needed
- Vinegar/ Commercial products for Rust
- Baking Soda & Water if vinegar used
- Oil/Grease
- Rags

SHARPENING:

- Stone
- Carbide steel
- File(s)
- Gadgets
- Angle Grinder (Only if you know what you are doing)
- Oil/Grease
- Reassemble

Be Safe, Enjoy, Appreciate, Repeat.

Thank you!



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12