

Inspect-a-Gadget: Halloween Style

Just in time for Halloween, Shirley K and Ron H have submitted their favourite garden tools. They are shockingly reminiscent of films that are too scary to watch. Who knew that such things lurked in the dark underbelly of Nanoose Bay...

Easy-Grip Garden Cultivator

Why Shirley loves it:

- She found it in a big box store about twenty years ago, and has used it constantly ever since.
- It extends her reach without compromising her strength.
- It gives her wrist a break from other gardening chores.
- It can be used for weeding in and around plants, or preparing open soil for veggie starts.
- For some reason, no one bothers her while she is using it. Ever.



Where you can get it:

- Shirley's version was made by Vertex Products. However, their current model is two handed. It is missing the upper handle and sharp tongs of Shirley's tool. Check out the NaturalGrip Cultivator at <https://vertexproducts.com>
- A closer alternative (with a hand hold but no arm brace) is the Easi-Grip Cultivator. The most economical source in Canada seems to be at flaghouse.ca, where you can also find an arm brace.
- They're not as strong, but Lee Valley Tools has [Large Hand Rakes](#) with excellent arm support rests.

Stihl HAS 25 Battery Shrub Shears



Why Ron loves it:

- He had looked at tools similar to this one, but they were always under-powered and cheaply made. This one is perfect.
- It is light, powerful, and easy to maneuver around to shape heathers etc.
- He uses it for trimming box and yew, small cedars, hebe, heathers and small ground covers.
- It has a removable 10.8 V lithium-ion battery, charger, and also a grass trimming blade.
- It is ergonomic and has a rubber handle and double stroke blade for low vibration.

Where you can get it:

- It sells for \$159.00 at Hi-Way Power and Marine in Parksville.

