

INSPECT-A-GADGET

A couple of months ago, Shirley K wrote to ask if anyone knew of a place to repair garden tools. I called around to a few places; most people recommended buying a brand new \$15 shovel, rather than a \$10 handle. However, her question got me thinking about favourite tools. The trusty ones. The first ones that you grab before going into the garden. The ones you would pay any money to repair. Definitely not the expensive wood ones that look beautiful but are forever hiding under foliage and making you feel guilty when you leave them out overnight.

Let's bare our hearts and celebrate our true loves. Send me a picture of your nearest and dearest (with or without a selfie!), and tell why it's your fave. Bonus points given for homemade, repurposed or adopted tools. Also, details on where to get one if possible. I'll start with mine.

Bush Pro Tree Planter's Shovel

Why I love it:

- It seems to penetrate even the worst clay soil. I can use it in from a kneeling position. But for stubborn rocks or roots, its length gives me leverage. Plus, it has a flat part on the top of the blade where I can really stomp on it. It is incredibly sturdy.
- The blade is narrow enough to fit in small spaces. And it's surprisingly useful for transplanting 4" pots and more delicate work.
- It's big enough that I don't lose it, and sturdy enough that it doesn't mind mucky weather.
- The D handle is good for my wrists.

Where you can get it:

- Bake pies and chocolate cakes to bribe a tree planter relative (like I did!)
- Go to Deakin Outfitting in Nanaimo. The FO1935 sells for \$59.95. You may have to shorten the wooden part of the handle (mine is 27" from top of the handle to toe of the blade). A bit expensive, but 100% worth the money. Perfect for a Christmas wish list!

