PRACTICAL HOMESTEAD PICKS

Fall garden tool care

One small group of hand tools at a time. Clean, inspect and store what you own before shopping for replacements.

- [ ] **Gather** - Choose a stable surface; bring a brush, cloths and the tool instructions.
- [ ] **Remove debris** - Brush off soil and plant material, including joints and crevices.
- [ ] **Clean** - Use soap or detergent where the manufacturer allows. Cleaning comes before disinfection.
- [ ] **Disinfect appropriately** - Follow the label and current Extension guidance for compatibility, contact time and protection. Never mix chemicals.
- [ ] **Inspect** - Check handles, fasteners, blades and locks. Set cracked, loose or unsafe tools aside for repair.
- [ ] **Dry and protect** - Dry thoroughly. Apply a suitable protective treatment only as the tool instructions direct.
- [ ] **Store safely** - Close or guard cutting tools as designed. Keep them dry and out of children's reach.

Repair or replacement notes

Need a replacement? Compare hand fit and the actual task. FELCO 2 is a bypass pruner for large right hands; compare another model for smaller hands or left-handed use.

Affiliate disclosure: As an Amazon Associate I earn from qualifying purchases. Research-based advice; no hands-on test claimed. Confirm the seller, model, price and availability. Amazon handles payment, delivery and returns.

Compare FELCO 2 at Amazon | Pruning-tool guide

Powered equipment needs its own manual and routine. Sources: University of Minnesota Extension, Utah State University Extension and University of Maryland Extension. Reviewed October 7, 2026.