

# Tools and Equipment List

Northeast School of Botanical Medicine  
7Song Director  
P.O. Box 6626, Ithaca, NY 14851  
7Song.com 607-539-7172

Below are some of the basic tools and equipment used to gather and prepare herbal medicines. Only the ones in the text box are required for class, though it is useful to have other equipment as well. These tools do not need to be purchased before the program, as there will be a class demonstrating them.

Below is the equipment I personally find most useful, but personal preferences play a big part in which tools you purchase. You may want to try them out beforehand. If you plan on doing a lot of wildcrafting, these tools will be used frequently, so choose carefully.

As a rule, the more expensive tools are better quality and last longer. This will help you avoid the frustration of their bending and breaking while out gathering. Better quality tools may also be designed to be easier on your body. Some tool brands and companies offer guarantees, which can come in handy.

There are resources at the bottom of the page

## Tools required for class

1. **Pruners**-The most used wildcrafting tool. Pruners come in different sizes and they should be able to open fully and comfortably in your hand. Felco#2 are a good all around pruner. (\$30-\$50)
  - Pruner holster-This makes carrying them easier. (\$8)
2. **Hori-Hori**-A very useful digging tool. There are a number of models available, I like the one with the wooden handle, no calibrations (numbers) on the carbon steel blade, and the black plastic case has a rabbit and Japanese writing on it. (\$30)
3. **Digging Fork**-Very useful for digging up most roots and rhizomes. Purchase a sturdy one with *square*, not flat tines. Digging forks are generally much easier to wildcraft with rather than shovels. Peaceful Valley has a number of different models (\$35-\$80).

## Wildcrafting Tools

1. **Burlap Bags**-Useful for gathering and transporting plants
2. **Gloves**-to gather stinging and spiny plants
3. **Loppers**-To cut branches and to process roots and other large and/or hard plant parts.
4. **Saw**-To cut branches and woody plant parts. Folding saws are easy to carry around.
5. **Shovel/Spade**-Heavy-duty to dig in rocky ground and for digging deep.
6. **Tarp**-Canvas and plastic tarps help to process plants on and keep the plants covered.

## Field Botany Kit

Note: I have all of these available for sale to students.

1. **Loupes** (magnifying lens)
  - 10x or 20x
2. **Tweezers**-Two pair. Sharp-pointed and self-closing.
3. **Scissors**-Small and sharp.
4. **Ruler**-Inches and metric 6"/15cm.
5. **Razor blades**-straight-edge, to dissect plants.

## Medicine Making Equipment

-basic tools and equipment

1. **Alcohol (ethanol)**-95% ethyl alcohol. Students usually mail order this together. (\$60/gal)
2. **Canning Jars**-Half gallon, quart and pint size for preparing medicines.
3. **Cleaver**-A large size for cutting and processing tough plant parts.
4. **Cutting Board**-Portable and easily cleanable.
5. **Measuring cup**-To prepare liquid medicines.
6. **Scale**-For weighing herbs to prepare medicines.

## Other Handy Items-for field trips

1. Boots, sandals
2. Camping gear
3. Cold weather clothing
4. Hat
5. Rain gear
6. Tent

## Resources

1. A.M. Leonard
2. Peaceful Valley Supply
3. Amazon
4. For Hori hori-Joshua Roth Hori
5. For Hori hori review-<http://www.gardentoolreview.com/hori-hori-soil-knife-review>