

# Tools and Equipment List

Northeast School of Botanical Medicine  
7Song, Director  
7Song.com

Below are some of the basic tools and equipment used to gather plants 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 of 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; they should open fully and comfortably in your hand. Felco#2 is a good all-around pruner.
  - Pruner holster—This makes carrying them more manageable.
2. **Hori**-A very useful small digging tool. There are several models available. I like the one with the wooden handle and the carbon-steel blade. It comes in a black plastic case that has a rabbit and Japanese writing on it.
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 easier to use while wildcrafting than shovels.

## 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 easier to carry around.
5. **Shovel/Spade**-Heavy-duty to dig in rocky ground and for digging deep.
6. **Tarp**-Canvas and plastic tarps are helpful for processing plants and for keeping them covered.

## Field Botany Kit

Note: Each student receives a basic botany kit for class (everything but the 20x loupe). Botany tools need not be purchased, though if you have them, bring them.

1. **Loupes** (magnifying lens)
  - 10x
  - 20x
2. **Ruler**-inches and metric 6"/15cm.
3. **Razor blades**-straight-edge, to dissect plants

## Medicine Making Equipment

-basic equipment

1. **Alcohol (ethanol)**-95% ethanol. Students in the Community Herbal Intensive will usually make a group order.
2. **Canning Jars**-Half gallon, quart, and pint sizes for preparing medicines.
3. **Cleaver**-A heavier model 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.
7. **Draw knife**-for removing bark from branches.

## Other Handy Items

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

## Resources

1. [A.M. Leonard](#)
2. [Peaceful Valley Supply](#)
3. Amazon
4. For Hori-Joshua Roth(my personal favorite)
  - [For Hori hori review](#)