

Spray Equipment

Some type of spray equipment is essential in a home garden if diseases and pests are to be kept to a minimum. It is also necessary to have the equipment in good order if spraying is to be done quickly and efficiently.

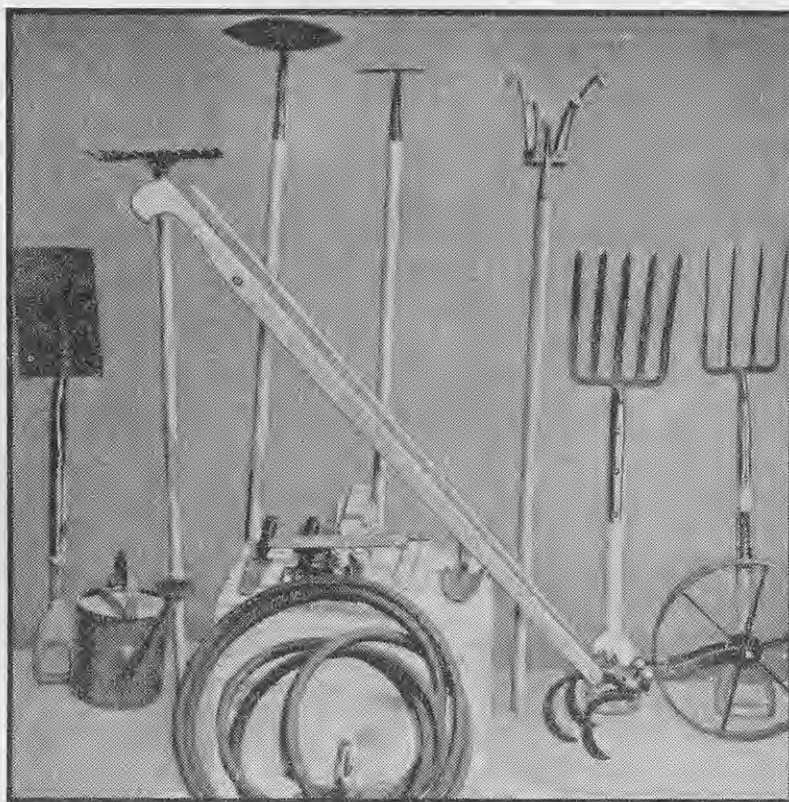
All appliances should be cleaned out after use, and at this time of the year some larger repair jobs may be necessary. Washers on all types may need renewing and hose lengths on bucket pumps or knapsack sprayers should be replaced if perished. Leaking hoses or joints reduce greatly the pressure of such pumps and thus their effectiveness.

One common occurrence with spraying appliances is the blocking of the nozzles. This is often caused by inefficient strainers, particularly on bucket pumps and knapsack sprayers. The strainer at the base of the bucket pump should be renewed, if necessary, and any holes in the strainer of the knapsack sprayer sealed up. It is also a good plan to take all nozzles apart and clean them thoroughly to remove any threads or particles of dirt. All spraying equipment should be stored in a position where it is not likely to be damaged.

Bonfires Have Disadvantages

At this time when much clearing of refuse is being done, gardeners are sometimes faced with the problem of disposing of considerable quantities of vegetation. The easy way out is to burn it and scatter the ashes over the garden. Unfortunately, although a bonfire saves time, much of value is lost from the material so treated. All plant refuse that is not diseased should be returned to the soil fresh or as compost. This is essential if the structure of the soil is to be maintained. Burning reduces the vital organic structure of the refuse which is so essential to soil improvement. However, the ash remaining is valuable as a fertiliser, as it contains in inorganic form most of the elements originally contained in the plant. The two major elements remaining are calcium and potash, but much can be lost by leaching, so that ash to be of full value as a fertiliser should be collected when cool and stored in a dry place until required.

Some coarse materials such as woody hedge clippings and prunings or noxious weeds are unsuitable for composting and should be burnt. The



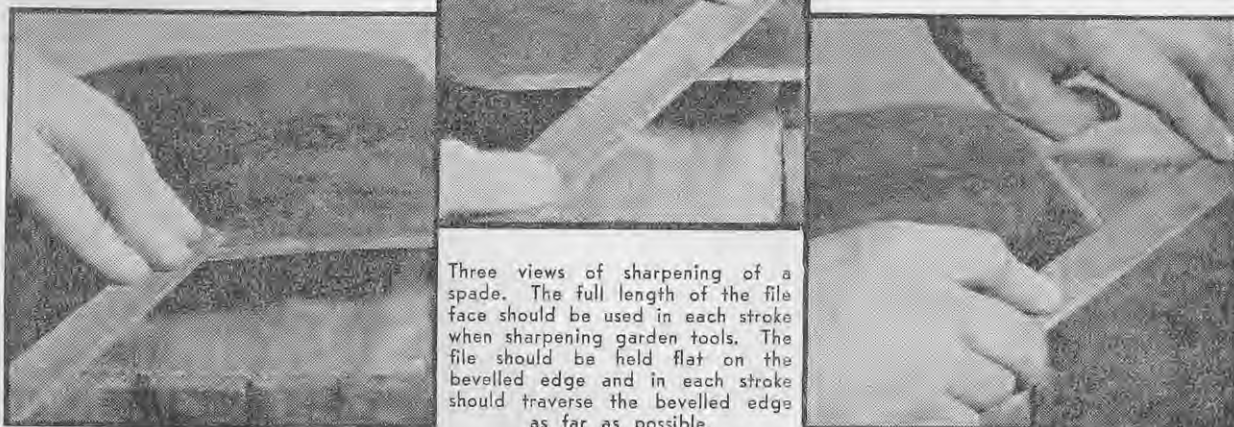
A wide range of tools is unnecessary; those shown represent all that are required for all major operations. Only sturdy tools should be purchased.

bonfire area can be kept neat and tidy if an old 40-gallon drum is used as an incinerator; one set up is shown in the illustration on page 313. In this instance a low, three-sided concrete foundation was constructed and iron rods fitted on to it. Both top and bottom

were removed from the drum before setting it in place. Although this drum is in a permanent position, it is always tidy and the ashes can be added readily to the adjacent compost bins.

Composting

Composting is a more satisfactory alternative to the bonfire for using organic waste. In this way the full value of the material can be made use of. Material for composting becomes available all the year round, but at this season a greater quantity probably will be available. Gardeners who have not thought it worth while to make compost would do well to construct a heap and to ascertain the



Three views of sharpening of a spade. The full length of the file face should be used in each stroke when sharpening garden tools. The file should be held flat on the bevelled edge and in each stroke should traverse the bevelled edge as far as possible.