



"IN THE SPRING, AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOU SHOULD SMELL LIKE DIRT."
—MARGARET ATWOOD

TM

TRUSTED ADVICE SINCE 1942

Conquer Weeds Early
Buy the Best Plants
Simple Seed Starting
Raspberries All Season

IN EVERY ISSUE:

Step-by-Step Techniques
Plants Worth Having
Reader-Tested Tips

SPRING

Get Growing Now!

Tips for Effective Hoeing

- Choose a hoe that you find easy to use.
- Keep the hoe sharp.
- Cut plants off just where the stem joins the root.
- Hoe regularly when weeds are small.
- Pick up the weeds.
- Leave sufficient space between crop rows to allow for easy hoeing.

Warrior hoe

We prefer this seemingly indestructible hoe for chopping at tight between plants to chop off stubborn perennial weeds. The tempered-steel blade is bolted to a stout, 60-inch hardwood handle. The pointed "wings" let you weed between more tightly spaced plants, dig furrows, or mount a focused attack on tough weeds. (\$34.45 from Bachtold Bros.; 877-784-5161; www.bachtoldbros.com)

Circle hoe

A circle hoe allows you to move in tight between plants to chop off weeds just below the soil surface with a pulling motion. This carbon steel and ash tool comes in a variety of blade diameters and lengths. (\$32.95, including standard 3-inch blade and 65-inch handle, from Rittenhouse; 877-488-1914, www.rittenhouse.ca)

Glaser colinear hoe

Designed by Eliot Coleman, the colinear hoe lets you get little weeds just below the soil surface before they become big problems. And you can do so in an upright position. The replaceable 7-inch-wide blade allows you to work where space is tight. (\$13.95 for the head, plus \$7.95 for the handle, from Peaceful Valley)