

My Essential Tools

First of all welcome to our new website created by our colleague Lorraine Dunk who we think has done an amazing job in freshening up (recreating!) our offering to the digital world. Lorraine and her partner Billy have also been a major help at the nursery, bringing their enthusiasm and energy, mainly for a regular supply of Cindy's cake.

The idea behind this section is to bring our current ideas and thoughts, keeping you up to date with the goings on behind the scenes around the nursery, possibly about a particular plant, or plant fair etc.



I thought I'd start with our basic tools of the trade. Working with other professionals, always teaches you something and the benefit of Felco snips is definitely one of those cases! I always used Felco secateurs for everything but, for the last few years, I've had the pleasure of working with (or should I say for!) Rosemary Hardy for Hardy's RHS Chelsea display, and noticed nearly all her team use snips. They are lighter, better for delicate tidying work and, as they are easier to slip (carefully) into your pocket, you are more likely to have them about your person for those jobs that need doing NOW!

The penknife in the middle used to be my Dad's. It is the bluntest penknife I have ever used, but that makes it perfect for the task of removing potting compost from roots. I use the back of it and, I hasten to add, it is a 'locking knife' so doesn't close unless you depress the catch giving it strength and rigidity without seriously damaging roots.

The last knife is the one that does the damage. It's an Opinel knife, this is a stainless steel upgrade on a basic metal one (which I still have) that I've had for 20+ years, but this keeps its sharpness for longer and, again, it locks by twisting the metal band.

I have, and use, other tools, Felco secateurs, scalpels for fine or small work, sharpeners (both knife and pencil) and notebook and pencil, but these three are in the category of 'indispensable'.

They're certainly getting a lot of use currently!

Colin

Colin's Corner 28/03/21