

Selecting Equipment For The Small Farm / Tools of the trade...



The Thought Process In Selecting Equipment For The Small Farm

- Making wise decisions and purchases for the farm enterprise, such as using equipment designed for the smaller farm operation rather than large-scale equipment, may prove to be cost effective.



- To be successful in farming today depends on many factors - most importantly a carefully thought-out plan of actions. Farmers need to carefully consider the size farm they have and what kind of crops or livestock they intend to raise before making purchases, including equipment.
- Small-scale growers require the right mix of labor saving equipment to help make them competitive with bigger growers.

- "What do I need to get the job done?" and "Is it profitable for me to own, lease or rent this tool or piece of machinery?"
- Is there special equipment needed to grow and harvest the crop?
- Equipment is typically things like tractors, roto-tillers, irrigation, facilities like barns, cool storage, washing sinks, birthing pens, brooding area for poultry, etc.

Greentree Naturals

Tools of the Trade

- The following are a combination of tools that we have used over the years. We only used the tractor for the first five years while we were first cultivating the land. We sold it ten years later for double what we paid for it.
- Our Troy-Bilt 8HP Horse tiller that we bought in 1991 is still in good working condition and we use it with a 2007 7 HP Pony Troy-Bilt, which we refer to our “horse and pony show”.



© Just because it is old does not make it obsolete, and just because it is new does not make it better. Many of the "new" tools are merely a modernized version of older machinery with a new twist. 1949 Ford 8N purchased for \$800 with totally rebuilt engine.

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1991 8HP Horse Rear-Tine Troy-Bilt Tiller

Cost \$1,549.00 / Tax \$77.45 / Shipping \$ 112.00



2007 7HP Pony Rear-Tine Troy-Bilt Tiller

\$1,000+ new Paid \$300 used





Chipper shredder attachment for the Horse model cost around \$300

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How many wheelbarrows do you need?



COST \$40 - \$100 each / flat free tires cost more.



DR Brush mower purchased used \$300
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Husqvarna 223R 24.5cc Straight Shaft Bike Handle Brush Cutter

- Cost \$369.99
- Use for cutting weeds inside of garden and along edges of growing area.





Germination chamber using regular shop lights:

- 2 x 4's – market value
- Shop lights \$10-15 each
- Web flats \$1.10 each
- 1204 trays \$.40 each
- Plug trays \$.80 each
- Dome lids \$1.75 - \$2.50 each
- Pot labels 1000/ \$14.40
- Soil 60# / \$12.75





Soaker hoses purchased in bulk from www.nurserytrees.com
500 foot / \$84.50 or 2x 500 foot rolls /\$160 or 100 ft hose \$12-\$15 each
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Soaker hoses....



½" diameter hose needs: Hose end connectors,
Elbows, T's, line connectors, stainless steel screw clamps
All run about \$1.15-\$1.50 each.

phone: (425) 343-2650. info@NurseryTrees.com





Fencing for tomato, peas, cucumber support – varies in height from 3 to 6 feet + T-posts. **COST: Field Fencing 330 ft roll of 47" \$150**
6 Ft T-post = \$3.89/each



13 x 18' hoop house materials cost around \$400 - \$450 each.
We have 5 x 18foot and 4 x 36 foot hoop houses cost approximately \$5,200
Cattle Panel for cucumber support \$22 each

Hoop Houses

We have 5 x 18foot and 4 x 36 foot hoop houses cost approximately \$5,200



50' x 25' High Tunnel \$4-\$5,000
Typar road fabric weed mat 320'x 17.5' \$400



**96' x 30' Greenhouse (\$7,000) w/plastic (\$1,000)
subterranean heating & cooling system (2,100+)
New service for power \$3,945**





Processing area/lean-to approx \$500

Walk- in Cooler

- Air Conditioner \$350
- Cool-Bot \$299
- 8'x8' insulated room



The CoolBot is a thermostatic controller that turns off-the-shelf air conditioner into a compressor.

Converted our old sauna into an insulated Room cooled with an air conditioner and Coolbot system.



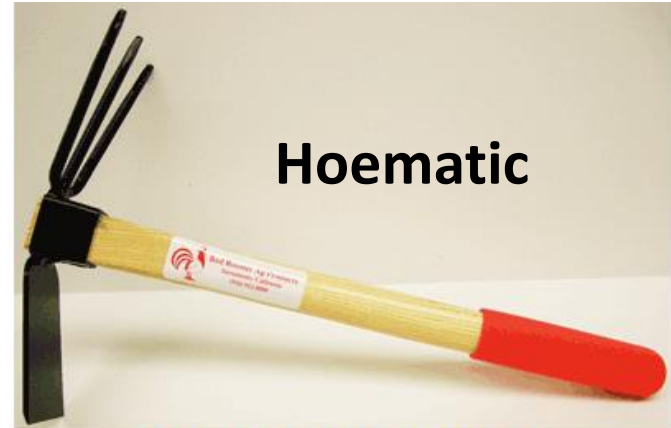


How many sets of hand tools are needed to assure everyone has what they need?
Tools include: gloves, garden hoe, stirrup hoe, garden rakes, hoematic, buckets...

Hand Tools



5" Stirrup Hoe



Hoematic



Japanese Weed Sickle



We also consider gloves, sunhats, sunscreen and shade umbrellas as tools of the trade.



Buckets for weeding can be purchased new for \$3 - \$4.00 each

Harvest baskets: Bushels run \$2.85 wholesale - \$7.00+ retail each. If you buy wholesale, there is a Minimum order + shipping costs.



Certified scales need to be used at the market....



Digital scale COST \$125-\$200 / Annual Idaho testing fee \$6 per year



We purchased a used scale from a naturals foods store that went out of business for \$50.

Net rope for making bags \$.03 per linear foot. www.filareefarm.com

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Processing the produce: Wash basin \$50
Commercial 5 gallon salad spinner \$239



Rubbermaid 21 gallon totes \$10 - \$12 each

Signs



We traded garlic and produce with a local sign painter to make our farm signs



Market tables \$35 each, market umbrella \$50, umbrella stand \$25, add cost of table cloths, display materials..... These items are technically “FIXED ASSETS” being used 2+ years.



Half pint molded fiber berry baskets
 $600/\$50 = \$.08$ each



Pint Berry baskets – plastic
 $100/\$15.00 = \$.15$ each

These are also **FIXED ASSETS**