

## Georgia Organics September Farmer Field Day

### Work Smart, Work Sharp: Choosing and Maintaining the Right Tools for Your Farming Operation

#### GRIDDER



The gridder perfectly lays out rows to give each plant the ideal space. Even and straight plantings are more productive and easier to cultivate. Many plant spacings can be achieved with one spool using the corners, sides, and the middle of grid squares.

**Where to find:** Neversink Farm Tools [www.neversinktools.com](http://www.neversinktools.com)

#### BROAD FORK



two grips.

The broadfork is a multi-purpose farm tool ideal for turning, tilling, lifting, and aerating soil. Broadforks allow the soil to be deeply aerated without damaging soil structure or mixing of the layers. Minimal effort is required as the body's weight is leveraged to insert and maneuver the tool. Broadforks have two pole handles that connect to a row of steel tines along a crossbar, which allows you to put your foot on the tool and drive it into the ground while holding the

**Where to find:** Johnny Select Seeds [www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com)

#### WHEEL HOE



Wheel hoes are tools you push through the rows of your farm to weed, till, cultivate, or plow. They have one or two wheels in the front, a tool-mounting area in the middle, and a set of handles in the rear. A wheel hoe is ideal for cultivating close to delicate plant rows and working around shrubs, fruit trees, and pathways. With select attachments it can also make furrows, hill crops, and loosen compacted soil.

**Where to find:** <https://hosstools.com/product/the-wheel-deal/>

## WORK SHARP GUIDED FIELD SHARPENER



The Guided Field Sharpener is a complete sharpening solution for the field, home, or shop use. It incorporates 5 stages of sharpening and honing, each with built-in angle guides for a consistent bevel across the entire blade. The Guided Field Sharpener also sharpens serrations, and fish hooks. The removable diamond plates reveal a storage cavity and broadhead wrench inside. Diamond plates can be flipped over during transport.

**Where to find:** Work Sharp Sharpeners

[www.worksharptools.com/shop/benchttop/manual/guided-field-sharpener](http://www.worksharptools.com/shop/benchttop/manual/guided-field-sharpener)

## BCS TRACTOR



The BCS Tractor is a single-axel power source that can operate multiple implements, just like a four-wheel farm tractor. BCS tractors are engineered with a low center of gravity for better stability with all appropriate attachments. For example, when operating a tiller attachment, the weight is centered over the tines for consistent, uniform pressure without the need for the operator to apply downward pressure. This walk-behind tractor steers by using a set of 180-degree swiveling handlebars. All BCS tractors have an independent power take off (PTO), allowing attachments to be turned on and off independently of the tractor wheels.

**Where to find:** BCS Tractor [www.bcsamerica.com](http://www.bcsamerica.com)

## Additional Tools to Consider



**Push Seeder:** A good seeder will cut a row into the soil for you, sow and space out seeds, and then cover them back up. Essentially, a seeder will do all of those tasks that can wreak havoc on your knees and lower back when you're planting.



**Hand Cultivator:** Used in small flower or vegetable gardens, the hand cultivator can be used like a small plow to dig the planting rows. They are also a great accessory to have when hand weeding.



**Hori Hori:** The hori knife is a multipurpose tool, used for both digging and cutting. Its steel blade is sharp on both sides, and has a semi-sharp point at the end. This tool is designed to be one-handed, and its unusual shape means it can be treated as a combination of a trowel, knife and saw.



**Machete:** The machete is an extremely versatile tool as it can act as both a knife and an axe. The machete lower blade is used for cutting, while the weighted upper blade provides force for chopping. Crops, such as rice, sugar cane, corn, rye, millet, barley, buckwheat, oats and many others can be easily harvested with a machete.



**Pruning Shears/ Hand Pruners:** Best described as scissors for use on plants, pruners are designed to smoothly cut thin pieces of wood and non-woody stems of perennials.

\*If you're using city water the *Boogie Blue* garden hose chlorine filter is a great addition to any farm operation

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