

Hedge Laying Tools & Equipment (and suppliers) updated November '09

Safety

Essential

First Aid Kit (Outdoor Shops/ First Aid Specialists/ Chemists)
Chain saw protective clothing (Helmet, Visor, Ear Muffs, Leggings, Footwear, and Gloves)
Thorn-proof mitts (Welding Gloves are fine, from hardware stores)

Proper Hedging Mitts

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Safety glasses / Goggles / Visor (Hardware Stores)
Close fitting, tough work-clothes

Useful

Knee Pads (Hardware Stores)

Tools

Essential

- **Chain Saw**

A saw with a short bar (approx. 12") is generally more adaptable, a bit safer and less likely to have the chain damaged inadvertently.

Chain saw suppliers will advise on mandatory safety/ protective gear.

- **Billhook**

Can be picked up second hand (e-bay is a good source for those with internet access) but will usually need refurbishing. Old Pierce tools are good quality.

The Woodsmiths Store Stock a good range of billhooks

<http://www.woodsmithstore.co.uk/shop/> email: enquiries@woodsmithstore.co.uk

tel: + 44 (0) 191 252 4064 (between 3:00pm and 7: 00pm Mon to Fri)

Olivemead Forge

<http://www.beavis608.btinternet.co.uk/>

Timeless Tools

Have a large collection of Billhooks, Slashers, and edge tools, available to buy on line.

www.timelesstools.co.uk or email at timelesstools@tiscali.co.uk

- **Axe**

Old Elwell axes 5lb -7lb are very suitable. Bahco (formerly Sandvik) do a large range of hatchets and axes. Two suitable models are

FGS-1.8-810 (axe) or HUP-1.0-650 (hatchet)

Bahco Tools are distributed by

Contact Mr Eddie Walsh
Address 38 Carrick Strand, Strabane, Co. Tyrone, BT82 9RN
Telephone 048 71 884453 / 087-2433040
Email eddie.walsh@ssaurope.com
Website www.bahco.com

- **Slasher or Slash hook**

Good quality old slashers can be sourced on the internet. Most hardware stores and creameries carry a Pierce slash hook. They are not ideal but are easy to get hold of. Chose ones with good straight grain in the handle, they won't break as easily.

- **Sharpening stone/s/File**

Bahco do a range of sharpening stones of varying quality and price.

LS-6160-23 (for fine sharpening), LS-PIERRE-FAUX (for coarse sharpening)

A Nicholson or Sandvik Mill File is very useful for taking out dints and initial shaping (most new tools are supplied with a ground edge, unsharpened and will require some initial shaping to put the correct bevel on them). (Hardware Store/Creamery)

- **Small Saw**

A 21" bow saw available from many hardware stores (or Bahco) will do, but a better option is to get a pruning saw. I use a Silky Fox - Zubat model, very good, but expensive. Samurai Saws are good value.

Silky Fox saws are available in Ireland from Eltjo van der Laan (071) 9644436. Their web site shows the tools (www.mystworld.com/silkyfox/).

Tree Care Ireland, Kilcoole, Rathoe, Co. Carlow, 059 91 48678
info@treeclimber.ie <http://www.treecareireland.com>

Stock a range of pruning saws and PPE equipment; Chain Saw Training; NPTC Assessment Centre

Bahco, Garden centres and some hardware stores may stock something cheaper.

Useful

- **Mallet** For driving stakes. Can be home-made, a heavy lump hammer or small sledge can be used.
- **Loppers** Bypass action, heavy duty, good quality, should be available from a Garden Centre, Hardware Store or Creamery. Bahco do a good range.
- **Rope**
- **Hook-on-a-pole** A long stick (2-4m) with a natural hook on the end is useful when working on tall hedges. Can be cut from a hedge.
- **Long handle Pruning Saw** Similar to the Small Saw above, but fitted on a long (often telescopic) handle – used to free tangled trees. Silky Fox do high quality pruning saws. Something cheaper can be brought from Bahco or Garden Centes
- **Fencing pliers/Hammer** - for removing wire and staples
- **Pitchfork/Rake** - for moving brash (and fire control)
- **Spade/ Mattock** - for planting work and/or grubbing out

Other Sources

Chain Saw equipment distributors often carry a small range of some of the above hand tools, or can order them from suppliers.

Buxtons www.buxtons.net

have a catalogue of Forestry and Arboricultural Tools and Equipment

Dick Tools www.dick.biz

extensive range of woodworking tools