

Best Buys for the

As summer ends, here's a selection of gardening Best Buys for the autumn clear-up

September is the ideal time to tidy your garden and start autumn pruning. The environmentally friendly way to deal with garden waste is to turn it into compost to feed back into the soil.

Which? Gardening has recommended the best tools for the job, from pruning out-of-control shrubs to protecting your hands while collecting leaves. Woody prunings can be reduced to a

mulch using a Best Buy shredder, ready to turn into compost in a Best Buy compost bin. And for extra green points you can save rainwater for next summer with a Best Buy water butt.

If you're looking for other gardening tools or equipment, there are lots more Best Buys at www.which.co.uk/gardening – plus top tips and advice on keeping your garden looking its best throughout the year.



1

WHEELBARROW FORT COSMO £54

www.which.co.uk/wheelbarrows

This wheelbarrow scored 78% in our last test. It has a rigid plastic bin, an inflatable tyre and a tipping bar. It's comfortable and easy to move around the garden, and is also very robust. It comes in burgundy, apricot or royal blue as well as terracotta.

2

LEAF RAKE AUTUMN MANIA BIG RAKE £15

www.which.co.uk/rakes

If your garden's lawn or gravel areas aren't big enough to justify a leaf blower, this plastic rake is all you'll need. It was very light, effective and easy to use in our tests, and scored 73%. It's available by mail order only from www.autumnmania.com.

3

SECATEURS SPEAR & JACKSON RAZORSHARP BYPASS SECATEURS £12-14

www.which.co.uk/secateurs

These Best Buy secateurs got top marks for comfort and ease of use in our tests and scored 83% overall. They come in three sizes, though you're most likely to find the medium one on sale.

4

PRUNING SAW FELCO 600 FOLDING PRUNING SAW £23

www.which.co.uk/pruningsaws

When it comes to tougher pruning and secateurs won't cut it, a folding saw is a sensible alternative to bulky loppers. This saw scored 73% in our tests, was comfortable to use and cut cleanly and quickly. The blade is replaceable, too.

GARDEN BEST BUYS

autumn garden

5

GLOVES **JAYCO GOLD LEAF TOUGH TOUCH** £23

These leather gloves, which scored 83% in our tests, were tough enough to withstand thorns and protected lower arms well. We also found that they were soft and comfortable and coped with more delicate tasks. They are available in ladies' and men's sizes.

6

WATER BUTT **HARCOSTAR SPACE SAVER WATER BUTT** £27

www.which.co.uk/waterbutts
Collect rainwater from the shed, garage or house in winter and use it on your container plants during the summer, saving valuable tap water. This is a Best Buy if space is restricted. The stand costs an extra £11.

7

COMPOST BIN **ROTOL COMPOSTER** £35

The Rotol Composter is not the easiest compost bin to fill, as the lid is small and tight-fitting, but we found it was a doddle to empty. You simply lift the whole bin off, leaving a cone of compost to continue maturing, and the bin's ready to start filling again.

8

SHREDDER **BOSCH AXT RAPID 2200 SHREDDER** £130

With a test score of 83%, this is the best garden shredder we've tested. It is very quick and shreds branches up to 2.5cm finely, so they're ready to put straight into the compost bin. We also found that it is light and easy to move around. The only downside is that it's quite noisy.

www.which.co.uk

September 2009 | 75



September 2009 | 75