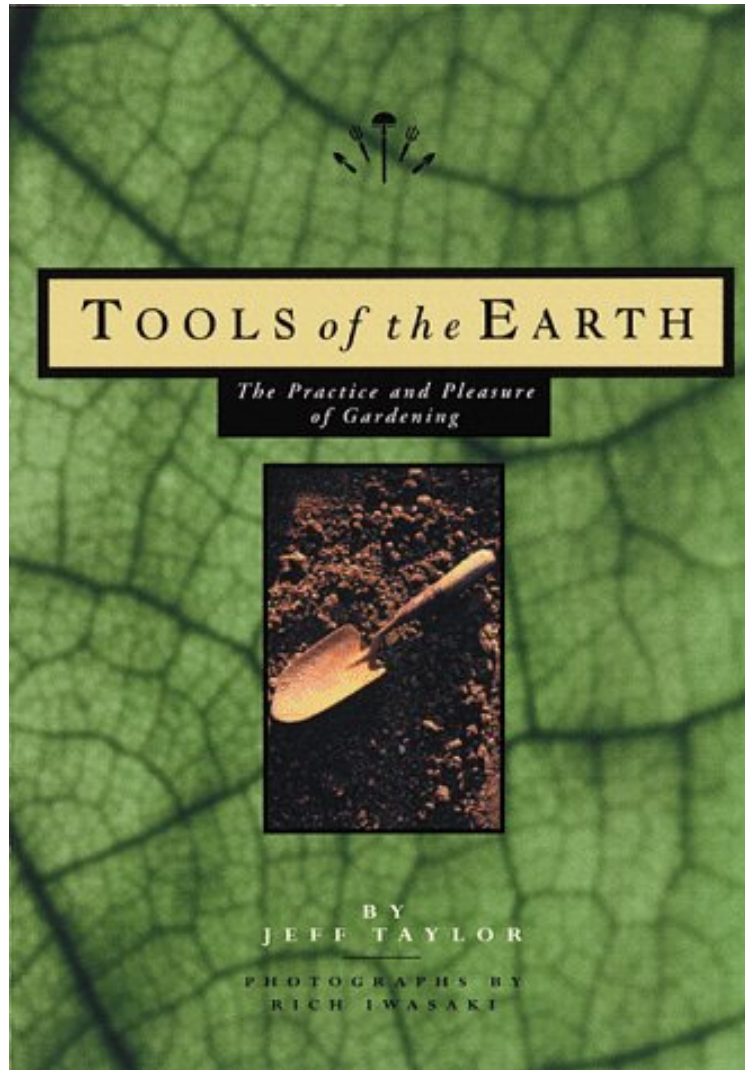


## Tools of the Earth

*Jeff Taylor*

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**Jeff Taylor : Tools of the Earth** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tools of the Earth:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Review of "Tools of the Earth" By Kindle Customer I enjoyed the book and learned some interesting things along the way. I like his style of writing and his attitude about life in general came through even more in this book than the first one where he wrote about carpentry. If there wasn't three feet of snow on the ground here in central Maine I would go out and start digging now. I hope he writes more in the future. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tools of the Earth By Jenny McLeod Using a quiet sense of humour the author of this book coaxes a smile from the reader for the people who use the tools of the earth. You don't have to be a

gardener to enjoy this book. It is a delight to read. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable for the inexperienced and experienced  
By Donna Shields This is a pleasant read. Brought a smile when I didn't expect it. Though it didn't tell me "how to" create a beautiful garden it expressed the way I work in the earth. When I leave my tools laying about tucked in the flowers this book showed me others think the same and do the same. Practical info: the chapters are short and you can skip around chapter wise. The book is nicely presented with good quality paper. This would also make a wonderful gift.

Tools of the Trade reveals the intricacies of garden tools. Each of Taylor's essays highlights one commonly used garden tool and explores its meaning, feel, history, and use.

Like Jeff Taylor's earlier book, *Tools of the Trade*, this book offers a lyrical glimpse in each chapter at one commonly used implement--in this case, those used in gardening (wheelbarrow, hoe, auger, hammock, etc.). Along with lovely photographs by Rich Iwasaki, it relates a personal description, story, or ode to each particular item. As in his earlier work, the author's writing is often quite funny (there's a chapter about the author's misadventures with a wheelbarrow), sometimes moving, very personal, and very entertaining for gardeners and nongardeners alike. A little history, a little storytelling, and another delight from Jeff Taylor. --Mark A. Hetts  
From Publishers Weekly  
Taylor's latest collection of hilarious and often poignant essays is as bracing as a cool drink on a hot day. Using the same format he plied in *Tools of the Trade* (1996), Taylor zeroes in on a couple of dozen specific garden implements?from the humble bucket and wheelbarrow to the tiller, cloche and grindstone?using them as springboards for informative, entertaining musings that deftly manage to avoid being folksy. Each chapter is introduced by one of Iwasaki's graceful photographs and ends with a pithy quote from such diverse sources as Thoreau, Luther Burbank, Freud and Goethe. The latter's observation, "There is no sight more terrible than ignorance in action," concludes a chapter entitled "Loppers," which segues neatly from pruning to clear-cutting. Taylor recounts the virtues and shortcomings of his chosen subjects with the expert air of one well acquainted with hard work; at the same time, he offers articulate deliberations on such wide-ranging topics as sleep ("Hammock") and parenting a teen ("Pitchfork"). Taylor can be funny, as when recounting a barefoot encounter with a stray trowel that left him "spitting out synonyms for fertilizer," and lyrical, as in the essay, "Gloves": "Hands can pick up a coconut or a snowflake, count tiny seeds or lift watermelons, stroke a lover or field-strip an automatic weapon." Calling himself "an average Joe Hoe," Taylor is any gardener's dream neighbor?especially if he lends out his hand tools. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
'Tools of the Earth,' by Jeff Taylor, isn't really about gardening either but is a witty book on garden tools (his wife's a gardener). 'Someone has been digging in the compost pile, and all the evidence points to a certain bad dog,' is how one chapter begins. -- Los Angeles Times-Orange County Edition  
A carpenter who previously wrote a well-received book called 'Tools of the Trade: The Art and Craft of Carpentry,' Jeff Taylor has applied the formula in a new environment: the garden. 'The Tools of the Earth' cleverly braids essays about garden work around the tools he uses. All the important implements see action: trowel, hoe, gloves, loppers, rake, bucket. Bucket: Will a bucket carry an essay? Much can be made of little if you have the will and capacity to concentrate the vapors of ordinary life. Taylor manages this task well. 'If you don't enjoy the simple pleasure of hoeing, you'll avoid doing it early, which means you'll have to do it later, and thereby, have more and taller weeds, but much less fun,' Taylor writes. He also includes the hammock among his critical wares. 'Of all the tools of the earth, of all the things we use to till, seed, shape, water, harrow, rake, weed and harvest our happy gardens, the hammock is the only one that will make us feel better immediately,' Taylor writes. Of all the raised beds in the garden, only the hammock cures fatigue.' -- Kitchen Garden  
Composting, Well, Philosophically  
'The attraction of Jeff Taylor's new book, 'Tools of the Earth: The Practice and Pleasure of Gardening,' is that it appears to be a sequel to his previous book, 'Tools of the Trade: The Art and Craft of Carpentry,' which told you more than you were likely to know about the hammer, the handsaw and other basic tools, and pleasantly less than you wanted to know...' -- New York Times