

# Tools of the Fruit Tree Trade

## **Bypass hand pruners –**

*Felco* brand is the most trusted in the industry. They come in all sizes, and for the left or right hand. Use them for cuts 5/8” diameter and smaller.

## **Bypass Loppers –**

*Felco* brand also makes a good lopper. Use loppers for cuts 1 ½” diameters and less. This gives the hands a rest.

## **Saws –**

*Silky* brand is the best saw I’ve come across. They come with many different teeth sizes—the larger the teeth the bigger the cuts. The one downside of these saws is that the teeth are hardened steel, so you can’t sharpen them (the teeth end up sharpening the file instead of sharpening the blade). For the backyard fruit tree grower, the foldable saws are perfect.

## **Long Reach Pruners –**

*ARS* brand makes these. If there is one tool I never head out to the orchard without, it’s my 4’ pruner. They also come in 6’ and extendable versions. Use this for cuts ¾” diameter and smaller.

## **Other notable tools –**

*Dead wood saw* – nothing dulls your blade like cutting through dead wood. Use an old saw or buy a cheap one for cutting dead wood.

*File* – any file will do. When you buy new tools they come nice and sharp- so keep them that way. Before you use them each time, it’s good to sharpen them.

*Disinfecting solution* – e.g., hydrogen peroxide, dilute bleach solution, or any brand of cleaning solvent. Keep your tools clean to prevent the spread of disease throughout the orchard and to keep the tools in good working order.

**Sources — San Lorenzo Garden Center (Santa Cruz), Hida Tools (Berkeley), The Garden Co. (Santa Cruz), Mountain Feed and Farm Supply (Ben Lomond)**