

# Tool Review



Fiskars W52 weeding tool and Fiskars medium bypass pruner

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## Tested by Miriam Heppell

**The Fiskars weeding tool**, pictured above was tested on a variety of weeds of different root depths and proved itself to be a very efficient weed grabber.

It works by the user positioning the stainless steel teeth over the weed, pushing the whole tool down then using your foot to lever the weed out of the ground. The sliding release can then be operated to drop the weed.

Martin my husband aged 63 really enjoyed using this as it meant he could weed without much bending. I found the tool more difficult to use and the power required to push the tool down and operate the release was challenging to my arthritic hands. The foot levering also was quickly uncomfortable on my toe joint and hip. One of the problems was the shape of the handle. I would have found the weeder easier to push down if there had been a T or D shaped handle at the top. The weed release also needs to have some non slip material to facilitate sliding, especially with gardening gloves on, for those with weaker hand and wrists.

Whilst neither of us use a wheelchair we did attempt seated weeding and found both pushing the weeder down and levering rather difficult. To use the tool you would need strength in your arms and hands and be able to use your feet to apply downward pressure.



**The Fiskars medium bypass pruner** is lightweight and ideally sized for the smaller hand or for those who have reduced mobility in their hands. The Power Gear mechanism really does reduce the effort required to prune thicker stems and branches up to 20mm. The most amazing feature is the rotating thick lower handle which means that a gentle squeeze will bring the blades together and you can use all of your fingers. I was able to use these pruners for much longer than my usual top quality pruners and without pain in my thumb joint, wrist and shoulder.

There was just one difficulty and that was fastening the very small safety catch - manufactures take note please. Other than that, I would highly recommend these pruners for those with arthritic hands or for those with small hands. A large model is available in both left and right versions but the medium appears to be a right hand model only.

