

in the garden by Stephen and Kristin Pategas



STEPHEN & KRISTIN PATEGAS

The Gardening Super Hero

Batman's utility belt is a life saver when battling evil-doers but when in the garden it doesn't compare to our gardening tool belts. We get lots of satisfaction using the right

tool or gizmo to accomplish the task at hand. Increased ease and efficiency make a project go faster with less physical effort. So we cobbled together a leather belt outfitted with pouches and critical gardening tools and aids that need to be close at hand.

- The wide leather belt (hardware or home improvement stores) adjusts to any waist size and we attach a range of pouches and devices including a cell phone holder. Some are locked in place with zip ties so they don't slide around and interfere as we move about. If the belt is too long then just trim it shorter.
- The most used tool at Hortus Oasis is the Felco 7 pruning shear with the rotating handle

pruner that is over 30 years old!

- The Soil Knife and Sheath (4750 and 4750S) is an absolute must for digging, weeding, cutting, prying, and survival in the garden. The orange handle is easy to spot if it's left behind (800.543.8955/ www.amleo.com).
- A Fiskars Softouch Micro-Tip Pruning Snip is perfect for getting into tight places and making delicate cuts (866.348.5661 or www.fiskars.com). Tuck this into a pouch.
- Gloves for Florida gardening need to be lightweight, breathable with waterproof palms, and machine washable. Look for the Atlas Fit 300 Glove (800-724-2596 or www.coopersafety.com) in a range of sizes with an elastic cuff



Find gardening tools at your fingertips!

Now we can't blame our memories (800-871-8158 or www.leevalley.com).

- The Felco 600 folding saw with a six-inch long blade has a tapered blade thickness to prevent binding and folds to a seven-inch length (www.felcostore.com). Folded it fits nicely in a pouch.
- Surgeons need hemostats to stop blood flow. We use them to clamp onto the tiniest of weeds and get their roots out of crevices as well as from amongst spiny plants. In that case they prevent the flow of blood! (web or locally at Skycraft 407-628-5634). Clip them onto a pouch or cell phone holder.
- A small bastard file keeps blades sharp and can store in the belt pouch. A few strokes at the correct angle and blades cut with less effort (locally at hardware stores).

You can be a super hero in the garden and save numerous steps since the most important tools are right on your hip. All you need is the Gardening Super Hero Tool Belt. ■



The belt and pouches hold numerous items.



These Felco hand pruners will last more than a lifetime.

that eases strain on the wrist, or for smaller hands, the Felco 2 (937.773.2694 or www.gardenedge.com). They are incredibly durable and left-handed versions are also available. We have a well-functioning Felco

to keep out debris. The thinner the glove, the less effort it takes.

- Gloves on, gloves off, where in the heck did they go? We clip 'em onto Glove Guards (XW106 for a pair) which hang from our belts.

Kristin and Stephen Pategas design landscapes and gardens at their home and business Hortus Oasis in Winter Park. Contact them at garden@hortusoasis.com or visit www.hortusoasis.com and www.pategaionplants.com.

All photography by Stephen G. Pategas/Hortus Oasis