

Tongs of death!



Trees For Life

A guide to help you manufacture your own.

Tongs of death are simple and cheap to make yet provide a very effective tool for treating bulbs, bridal creeper and some other weeds with the aid of glyphosate herbicide.

Materials & equipment:

- **Stainless steel kitchen tongs.** 230mm is the general size but up to 300mm tongs are still manageable. Longer sizes are unwieldy. They must be stainless steel as glyphosate corrodes other metals.
- **Foam cleaning sponges.** The cheap ones are good, thicker better than thinner.
- **Synthetic thread.** Coloured raffia from craft shops is cheap and strong. Natural fibre is not suitable in contact with glyphosate.
- **Tapestry needles.** These are strong and have a large eye. Available from Spotlight.
- **Drill bit, about 1.5mm.** This must be sharp. Make sure the hole is large enough for the needle!
- **Drill.** Cordless is adequate.
- **Hammer.** Any type, for flattening tongs.
- **Small block of wood.** Pine off cuts are ideal.
- **File.** For smoothing off the burr around drill holes.
- **Gloves.** For protection.
- **Safety glasses.** For protection.

Method:

- Open tongs and, using piece of wood & hammer, flatten cups of tongs.
- Holding flattened end of tongs onto wood, drill 6 holes in each "cup", 3 along each side.
- Use file to clean burrs from around holes.
- Cut sponge into rectangles to fit over "cup" of tongs. Small size sponges should provide 4 rectangles with a bit left over.
- With needle & thread, sew sponge in position, in a circular direction, leave some thread at start and tie to end to secure. Tension should be enough to hold sponge secure.
- Tip: rinse needle in water and dry after use otherwise sizing in sponge will cause it to rust.

