

# GARAGE SALES

## Get Ready for Spring

Looking to spruce up your lawn and garden this spring?

Garage sales and estate sales are great ways to get ready for spring and summer while staying on budget. Get ready to get growing.

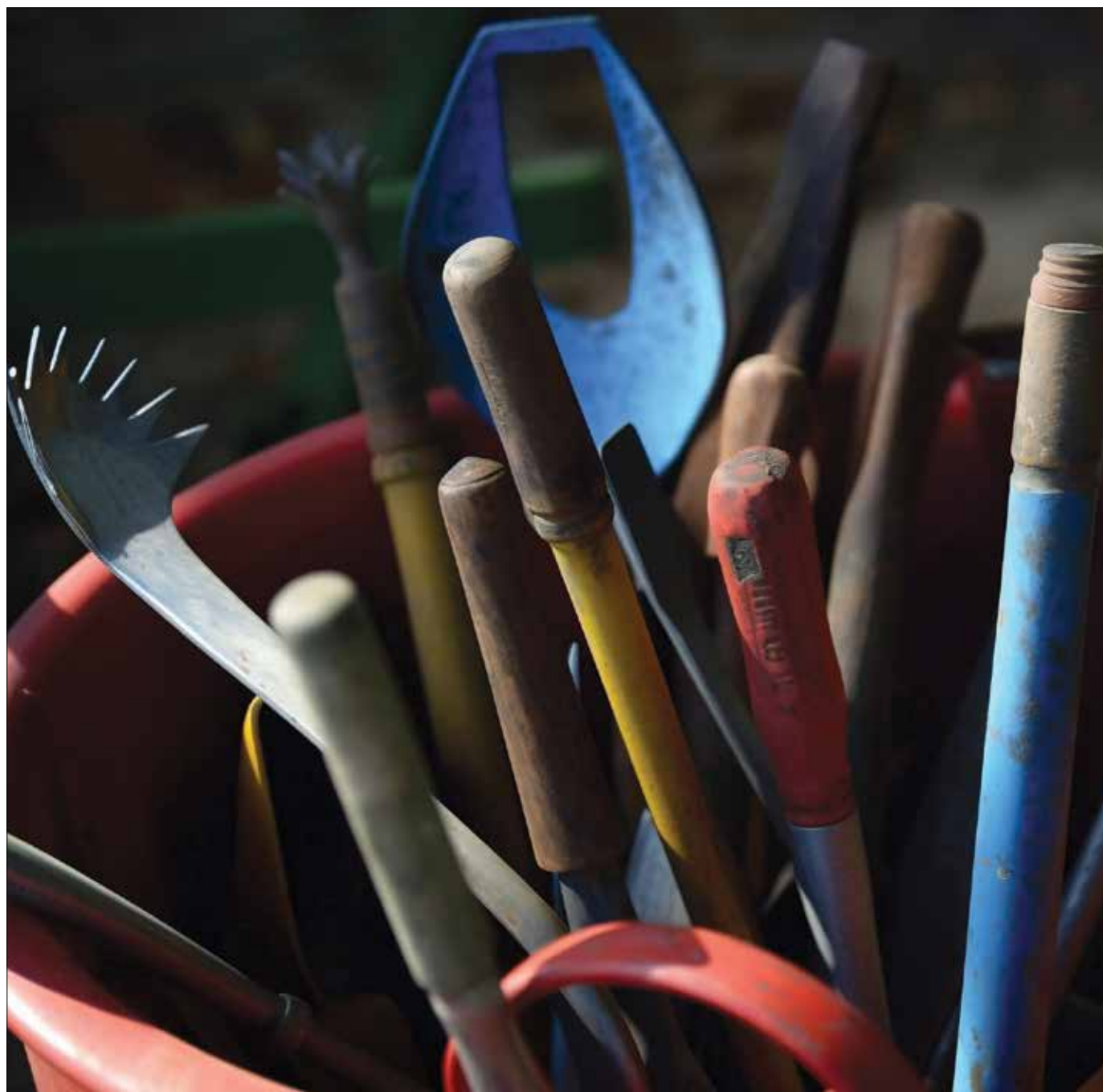
### TOOLS

Garage sales are great places to find gently used lawn and garden tools for a great price. Before leaving the sale, make sure the tools are in good shape. If they need repair, negotiate for a better price. Make sure the repairs are something you'd feel comfortable doing on your own.

Once you get your new tools home, clean and disinfect them with water and detergent. Use a stiff brush to knock off dirt, then spray the tools with water to get off caked-on grime and get into tight spaces. Then disinfect your new gardening tools with a product such as Lysol, a 10% bleach solution or 70% rubbing alcohol.

### WHY DISINFECT?

Plant pathogens such as bacteria, fungi and viruses can move through new-to-you gardening tools, where they can then target your garden.



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The University of Minnesota recommends preventing the spread of diseases by thoroughly cleaning your new

tools, pots and decor. Clean and disinfect in the fall before you put your tools and plants away before winter, in the

spring before you use them, after working with an infected plant, and when bringing any new-to-you tools home or

bringing your tools home after using them elsewhere.

### GET CREATIVE

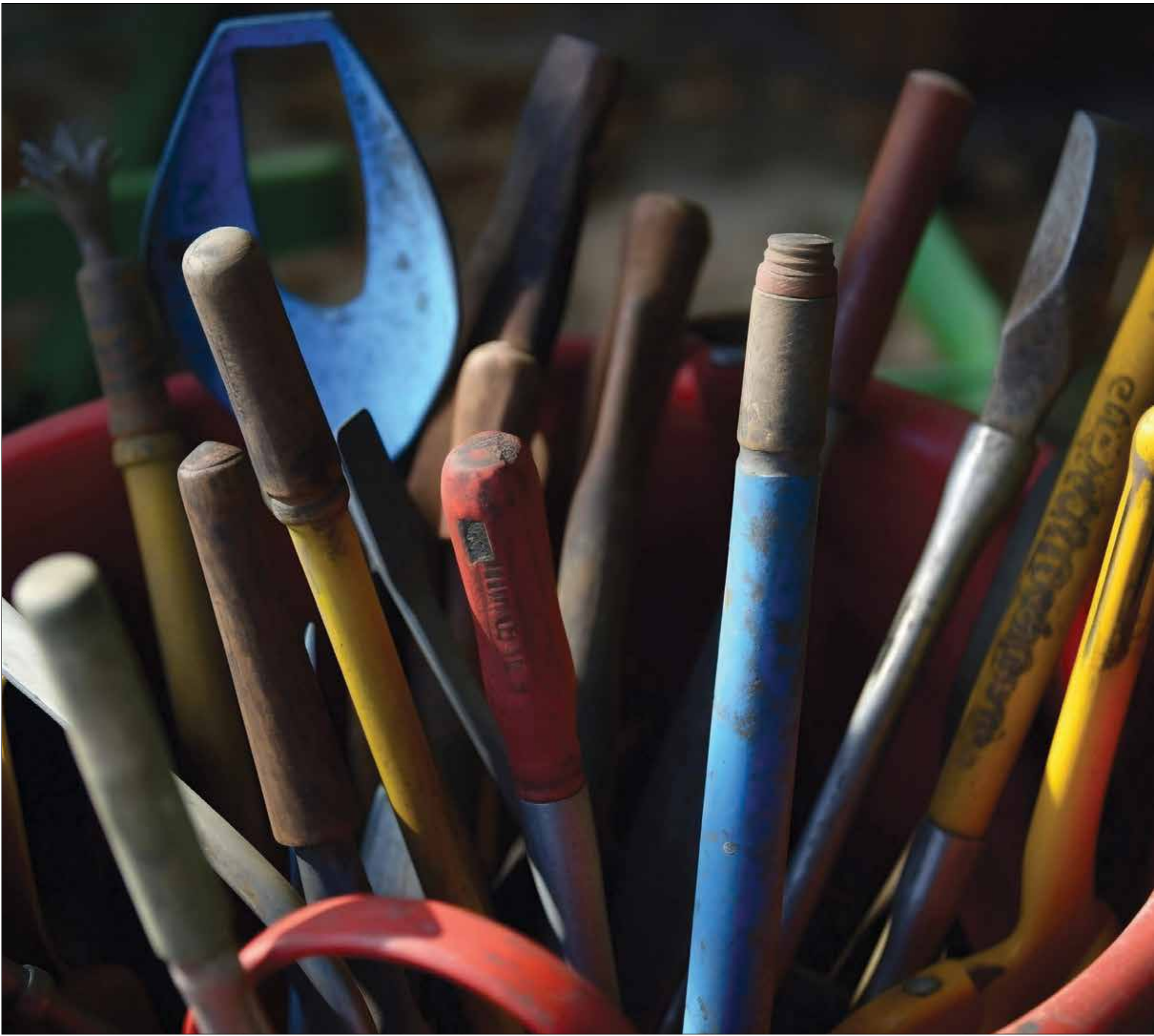
Even if you don't see any dedicated planters along your garage sale route, remember that any vessel can become a planter. Remember to drill drain holes in your thrifted pots using a drill bit appropriate to the material your pot is made of. If you choose items that are traditionally used indoors, make sure they are appropriately sealed for outdoor use. It may be as easy as a coat of spray paint. You may also choose to line your new pots with removable plastic liners or planter pots that will allow you to lift the pot out for plant care.

### BUYING POWER TOOLS

Large sales, especially estate sales, may offer powered lawn tools such as mowers, string trimmers and more. Before you leave the sale, make sure the tool runs like it's supposed to. Ask the seller to fuel it up or plug it in so you can test it. If it doesn't work, don't take the seller's word for what's wrong. Look at it yourself and diagnose the problem, making sure it's a problem you're comfortable fixing on your own or negotiate a price that makes it fit your budget, including professional repair.



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#### SELLER'S TIP

##### Selling Powered Garden Tools

Don't be afraid to include powered appliances and tools in your sale. Consider running an extension cord and power strips so that people can see for themselves that the items work before they check out. If the tool takes gas or another fuel, make sure you have some on hand and let people crank the item and run it to make sure it works. While you don't have to let people test the merchandise, if you don't, you'll need to set your prices to entice buyers to shell out cash without making sure it works.

## AD SPACE