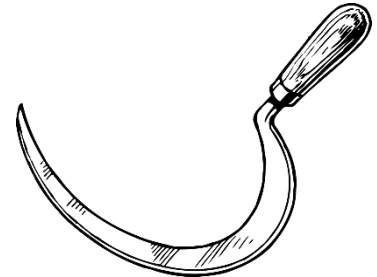


What?

- Grass hooks and sickles are single-handed traditional agricultural tools designed with variously curved metal blades attached to a short wooden handle.
- The blades are typically smooth, but in the case of a sickle, can sometimes be serrated.



Why?



- Grass hooks and sickles were traditionally used for harvesting grain crops or cutting succulent forage chiefly for feeding livestock.
- More modern uses include cutting back long grass, thick weeds, brambles and light brush clearing.
- Both tools need to be kept sharp and used with the appropriate techniques in order to achieve the best results and maintain a safe working environment.

Do ✓

- ✓ Transport tools safely; clamp in place when in the minibus and protect the blades
- ✓ Check the site for any dangers before starting
- ✓ When carrying a grass hook/sickle carry it in your right hand so you can see the blade and it won't catch on anything to the side of your path
- ✓ Try holding a stick between the tool and your legs using your non-tool hand. If you slip, the tool hits the stick, not you
- ✓ Learn how to sharpen a grass hook/sickle blade safely
- ✓ Watch out for other people getting too close, stop the activity and ask them to move away
- ✓ Clean the tools and put away securely after use

Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't wear gloves when using these tools
- ✗ Don't forget to take regular breaks and use the time to sharpen blades
- ✗ Don't force the tool; if you have to do this the blade probably isn't sharp enough
- ✗ Don't raise the blade above your head



Document Name	<i>TBT Grass Hooks & Sickles</i>	Document No.	<i>OC/HS/TBT 30</i>
Document Owner	<i>David Shaftoe</i>	Date of Issue	<i>07.06.20</i>
Related TBTs	<i>Nesting Birds; Raking; Sharpening Stones; Ticks & Lyme Disease; Outdoors in Hot Weather</i>	Version No.	<i>1</i>