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ALLIUMS**

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Garden answers

OUR PROBLEMS SOLVED
in shade

Darlac Compound Action Pruner



New model with Teflon-coated carbon steel blade and contoured, soft-grip handles.

WEIGHT 172g (6oz)

PRICE £12.70

GUARANTEE Lifetime

FROM Darlac,
tel. 01753 547790;

www.darlac.com

VERDICT These look weak and feeble but the mechanism means they slice as well as push so they box well above their weight! The handles were comfortable – they were neat and compact, great for small hands. They also cut superbly and the catch means they can be used left-handed. They were simply amazing value for money!

OPEN HANDLE WIDTH

13cm (5½in)

20MM PEAR STEM TEST

Passed



Must-have

Which secateurs are best for general garden pruning?

A good pair of secateurs are essential for gardening. As your plants grow, there will soon come a time when they need cutting back. In general, secateurs are the easiest way to prune them if they have stems up to about 20mm (¾in) thick. Much bigger than that and you will need loppers or a saw.



Only two pairs managed our pear test easily!

The test

We tested eight very different secateurs with a wide range of prices and features.

We used them on a wide range of stems and assessed how smooth they operated, the catch, how they cut, the effort required, how comfortable they were, how wide the handles opened and general feel and quality as well as price.

Some claimed to cut up to 20mm (¾in) branches and one claimed up to 25mm (1in), so we tested all the secateurs with a standard piece of green pear branch which was pretty dense and a fair test.

ALSO FEATURED IN THIS TEST

Spear & Jackson **Joseph Bentley** **Qualcast** **Felco** **Fiskars** **Draper** **Burgon & Ball**