

Garden

Gone with answers the wind

HANDS-ON HELP FOR GARDENERS

Take a look at our selection of leaf blowers and rakes designed to keep your garden spick and span

Autumn leaves look lovely on the trees, in various shades of gold, orange and red, but they are a nuisance when they drop on your lawn and paths. They are a safety hazard when they cover paths, encouraging algae and moss and rotting to a slippery slime and on your lawn

they can smother the grass, encouraging fungal diseases and they also encourage worms, which pull them into the ground to eat and then leave castes on the surface. So what's the best way to clear up the leaves in your garden? We look at a selection of tools designed to do just that.

IDEAL FOR
LAWNS AND
BORDERS

Telescopic
from 79cm - 160cm

Telescopic Expandable Rake

If you're short on storage space then this expandable rake is the ideal solution because it can be collapsed down after use. You can alter the working height for your comfort, and the tines can be adjusted closer for use among border plants, or wider for raking lawns.

PRICE around £10

FROM Darlac, tel. 01753 547790 or log on to www.darlac.com

HEAD TO HEAD

So what's better at clearing leaves quickly and easily - a leaf blower or a lawn rake? We decided to put it to them to the test and divided up a section of lawn to try the products out. We tested a lawn rake and the Ryobi Back Pack Blower with TouchStart.

Leaf blower

Leaf blowers are good at moving leaves around, especially when they are dry, but ours had trouble moving them off this grass. It is not easy to create a neat pile in a small space with a blower. Ours failed to get all the leaves off the

grass or make a neat pile. Clearing this small area to this standard took longer than the rake!

Lawn rake

Raking a large area of lawn to remove leaves can be a good workout for your muscles. But rakes work! In just a few minutes we cleared an area of grass and, while not perfect, it looked a lot better than the area worked with the leaf blower. In fairness, had the leaves been bigger they would have clogged the rake and been easier to blow but we think the results would have been the same.

