

Weed Wrench—Information & Instructions

Benton Soil & Water Conservation District
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Placing the Jaws:

Open the jaw until the jaw-catch engages. You can do this by bumping the nose of the tool on the ground while pushing the handle forward. The jaws will stay open while you place them around the stem. Disengage the jaw-catch by putting your toe on the top of the lifter arm behind the jaw and giving the handle a tug. If the jaw shows any tendency to slip upward instead of gripping the stem, keep pressure with your foot on the lifter arm until the jaw is solidly clamped on.

Extracting the Plant:

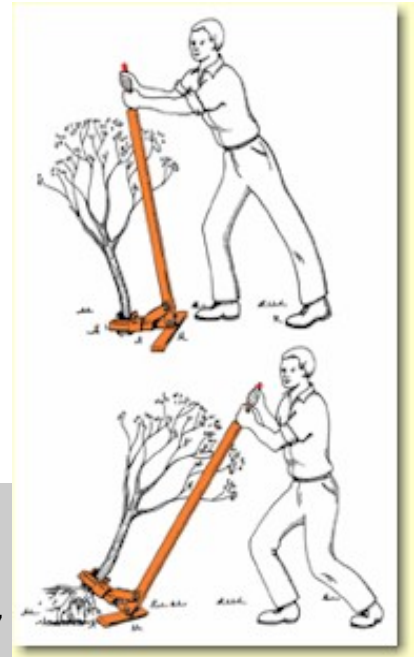
Once the jaw is clamped on, give a short hard pull to determine whether it's going to be an easy or hard root to extract. If it starts to give way, just keep pulling. If it doesn't, don't try to pull it in one stroke. Instead, begin "pumping" the handle, rhythmically pulling hard, then relaxing the pull. This will fracture the soil a little more with each pump, the ground will begin to heave, and finally you will hear a muffled "pop" deep underground when the taproot releases.

Keep the Fulcrum Flat on the Ground:

Always have the fulcrum flat on the ground before attempting to pull. Damage to the Weed Wrench can result from not having the fulcrum flat on the ground before pulling.

Cautions when using the Weed Wrench:

- Watch out behind you: Always be prepared for when the plant you are pulling breaks loose suddenly when the roots pull free, a branch breaks off, or a bad jaw placement slips off. Brace yourself to avoid falling backwards.
- Watch out around you: When working with or carrying a Weed Wrench, be careful of people nearby.
- Watch out for your eyes: Always be cautious when pulling plants that have thorns or stiff branches at eye-level; wear eye protection if necessary.
- Watch out for your fingers: The jaws have tremendous gripping force. Keep your fingers away from them, and away from the area where pinching or scissoring actions are occurring.



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