

9383 JOHNNY'S 415 BROADFORK 9677 JOHNNY'S 520 BROADFORK

9338 JOHNNY'S 727 BROADFORK 9061 JOHNNY'S 920 BROADFORK

Based on a European design, Johnny's Broadforks have been re-developed by Eliot Coleman and are now made exclusively for us by a skilled Maine toolmaker. Your broadfork is invaluable in deeply aerating the soil without damaging the soil structure or mixing the layers. With proper care, it will be a pleasure to work with for years to come.

PARTS LIST

1 – Steel fork base	2 – 1/4-20 x 2" bolts	2 – 1/4-20 self locking nuts
4 – Washers	2 – 50" wooden handles	2 – Small wedges

TOOLS NEEDED

- Hammer, two 7/16" wrenches, sharp knife

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

- **STEP 1:** Insert the flat end of each handle into a "ferrule" of the fork. Maneuver the handles until the end of each handle is flush with the bottom of its ferrule. Handles may need to be tapped into place by holding upside down and tapping the top of the handle on the floor or ground (pad to prevent damage to handle top), allowing the weight of the fork to drive itself on. Tap individual handles until the predrilled holes in each handle line up with the predrilled holes in the ferrules.
- **STEP 2:** Insert a 2" bolt through each of the predrilled holes, being sure to place a washer on either side of the ferrule. Do not tighten yet.
- **STEP 3:** Insert one of the small wooden wedges into the slit in the end of each handle. Tap lightly with a hammer until the wedges will go no further into the handles. This step ensures that the handles will fit snugly and not wobble during use.
- **STEP 4:** With a sharp knife (Johnny's floral knife works great), score the exposed wedge flush with the end of each handle. Tap lightly on the exposed section, and it should fall off easily.
- **STEP 5:** Use wrenches to securely tighten the nuts on each bolt.

AERATING WITH YOUR BROADFORK (models 415, 520 and 727)

Aerating the soil with your broadfork once a year will greatly enhance the long-term productivity of the soil. Work backwards down the bed to avoid stepping on the freshly worked area. With the tines on the side of the fork facing you, press the fork into the soil by stepping on the crossbar. Pull back on the handles approximately 45° as you step backwards off the crossbar, and lift the broadfork out of the soil. Move the tool toward you 6"-8" from the last insertion point and repeat.

When you use your body weight to insert and leverage the tool, instead of your back and arms, this work seems almost effortless. After some practice you will develop a nice rhythm.

To keep your broadfork in good condition, clean it (and all tools) after use. Brush dirt off tines with a wire brush and/or wipe with a slightly oily cloth to minimize rust. Apply linseed oil to handles once each season just before storing the tool for the winter. The tines are made of a steel that will bend without breaking when overloaded. They can be easily returned to their original positions by using a large vise or using a length of pipe over the tine for extra leverage.



HARVESTING ROOT CROPS WITH YOUR BROADFORK (model 920)

Loosening soil around root crops can be hard work. We've tried using our standard model 520 Broadfork in the past but with limited success because the tines were too far apart. So we cut the tine spacing in half by adding four extra tines, which resulted in nine tines with an overall width of twenty inches and thus our 920 Broadfork. This fork moves a wall of soil and has proven effective for harvesting carrots, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and leeks.

For carrots and leeks, plunge the tines into the ground about eight inches from the row by standing on the crossbar. Pull backward on the two handles and the soil between the fork and the crop will move upward. This indicates that it is loose along one side and this is usually sufficient to allow pulling with relative ease. It is important to loosen the soil without allowing the tines to contact the crop.

Sweet potatoes are harvested in a similar manner since they grow with elongated, deep roots. It is hard to know exactly where they will be and they are fairly fragile so extra care is needed.

Potatoes are dug by plunging the tines below the tubers and then working them to the surface by rocking the fork back and forth.

