

The Wondrous Wheelbarrow

by Laura Johnston

One of the most used tools on site is the wheelbarrow. It is used to move tools to the trenches and to move 2-3 zembilis of dirt, rocks or weeds from the trenches to the dirt pile.

There are two different types of grips on the wheelbarrows if you don't include the ones that have no grips. First off there are the ridged grip:



Most people seem to prefer this type of grip, however I prefer the second type of grip, the smooth grip:



The only downside to this type of grip is that when it is on a brown wheelbarrow it tends to slip and can come off of the handles. However this is useful if you want to steal them from someone else's wheelbarrow and put them on yours.

When you are moving the wheelbarrow and are confronted with an uphill, don't worry. If you just lightly trot up it's a lot easier and especially if there is a downhill before the uphill.

Most of the time the dirt, rocks or weeds will be dumped off the side of a dirt mound. However when doing so the wheelbarrow tends to try and roll off the side of the hill. So if this happens a lot to you, you can put a rock in front of the wheel to stop it from moving.



But If you want to be fancy about it you can make a runway for your wheelbarrow by putting a minimum of three rocks in a partial square or semicircle.



Wheelbarrows also have a tendency to kick back at you when you are dumping out dirt from the upright position if you aren't careful. To prevent this you can put your foot on the back of the wheel.



However if you have smaller feet like myself it can be easier to put your foot sideways behind the wheel or even place the wheel between your two feet.





When going to dump out the wheelbarrow it can be difficult to flip both of your hands around to get a good grip. When this happens I prefer to flip one of my hands under the first handle and rest the other handle on my hip bone so I can get my other hand beneath it.



If you don't want to risk getting any kickback or can't get your hands under the handles of the wheelbarrow you can tip the wheelbarrow so the dirt comes over the side instead of the front.



If you are dumping rocks or dirt onto the flat part of the dirt pile instead of over the edge your technique may have to change a bit. I find it easier to simply dump the wheelbarrow completely over on a diagonal angle instead of holding it upright.



Wheelbarrow handles are also a convenient spot to hang your clicker so that you never miss counting a zembili.



Believe it or not wheelbarrows aren't only good for moving stuff, you can sit back and relax with your wheelbarrow and just enjoy the moment.

