

TREADLE & SPOOL

The Garden Half-Apron

four pockets, one waist tie, zero trips back to the shed

from the sewing room at Granny Plants

What's inside:

- A sturdy tie-waist half-apron sized for real garden work
- Four divided pockets: seed packets, snips, twine, and the phone that takes the harvest photos
- Two rectangles and a tie — no curves at all this time
- One size adjusts to fit anyone who ties a bow

Use canvas, duck, denim, or heavyweight cotton — this apron will carry pointy things and kneel in dirt, so give it fabric that isn't precious.

Materials, cutting & making

You'll need:

- 3/4 yard of canvas, duck, or heavyweight cotton
- 2 1/2 yards of 1" cotton webbing or twill tape for the waist tie
- (Or make your own tie: cut a 90" x 3" strip, piecing as needed)

Cutting:

- Apron body: cut one rectangle 22" wide x 12" tall
- Pocket panel: cut one rectangle 22" wide x 9" tall

1. Hem the pocket top.

Double-hem the top edge of the pocket panel (fold 1/4", then 1/2", topstitch).

2. Hem the body.

Double-hem both sides and the bottom of the apron body. Leave the top raw — the waistband covers it.

3. Attach the pocket.

Lay the pocket panel on the body, right sides both UP, matching the bottom and sides. Fold the pocket's side and bottom raw edges under so they sit just inside the body's hemmed edges, and topstitch down one side, across the bottom, and up the other side.

4. Divide the pockets.

Sew three vertical lines through pocket and body: at 5", 11", and 16" from the left edge. Backstitch hard at each pocket top — that's where the tugging happens. You now have four pockets: two wide, two narrow.

5. Add the waist tie.

Find the center of your webbing and the center of the apron's top edge. Sandwich the raw top edge inside the folded webbing (or fold the webbing over the edge), pin from center outward, and topstitch along the webbing's lower edge across the apron — then keep stitching the folded webbing closed along both free tails.

6. Knot up and head out.

Tie it in the back, load the pockets, and go see what Elizabeth's successor is up to.

Granny's notes:

Snips ride in a narrow pocket, points down. Ask me how everyone learns this.

Add a grommet or buttonhole above one pocket and feed your twine end through — a twine dispenser you wear.

This pairs with the cross-back apron: that one's for the kitchen, this one's for the dirt.