KEEPONGARDENING

KEEPONGARDENING……..CREATEYOUROWNTOOLS

An enabling tool can be a conventional item used in an unconventional way.

Dibble: Used for making planting holes for seeds.
  Conventional items: Turkey baster, pencil, dowel rod, cane.
  Homemade versions: Sharpened broomstick inserted into a square or rectangular piece of
  wood to make it easier to handle.

Seeding Tool: Used to get seeds into the dirt in a ground-level garden.
  Conventional items: Piece of 1” PVC pipe or bamboo, seeder/cane taped together.
  Homemade versions: PVC pipe with funnel attached at top and dibble attached extending
  3” or so beyond the bottom edge of the tube.

Seed Tape: Used to plant seeds with just the right spacing.
  Conventional items: Can be purchased.
  Homemade versions: Cut newspaper strips 1” wide; put a dab of flour-and-water paste at
  proper intervals and put one seed on each dab.

Digging Holes: Used to dig holes for transplants in prepared, loosely packed soil.
  Conventional items: Big spoon or large, plastic mug with handle to scoop up soil.
  Homemade versions: Attach a big spoon to sturdy pole or stick.

Setting Out Transplants: Used for getting small plants into the soil.
  Conventional items: Long-handled trowel, child-sized shovel, long-handled reacher.
  Homemade versions: Built-up/extended handles on tools, 5” drainage pipe to slide plant
  down to hole.

Cultivating and Weeding: Used for reaching around to clear weeds.
  Conventional items: Oscillating hoe, forks, child-size hoes, long-handled reacher.
  Homemade versions: Built-up/extended handles on tools.

Watering: Used to get water to plants in the ground and in containers.
  Conventional items: Drip irrigation, soaker hose, spray wand, plant pulley, watering cans.
  Homemade versions: Sink coffee cans or jugs with holes in sides next to plants and fill
  with water for slow release. Partially-filled plastic gallon milk jug, rubber-
squeeze bulb, sponge soaked in water.
**Cutting and Pruning:** Used to manage plants and cut flowers.
Conventional items: Lightweight scissors, florist pruners, flower gatherers, ratchet pruners/shears.
Homemade versions: Built-up/extended handles on tools.

**Transporting:** Used for moving items around your garden area.
Conventional items: Wheelbarrow, garden carts, child’s wagon.
Homemade versions:
- For persons using wheelchairs – lapboards, baskets and hooks to hold hose.
- For ambulatory persons with crutches/canes – carry tools in one gallon cut-down container belted around the waist; modify carpenter’s apron by using hook and loop fasteners to add pockets for tools and clippings.
- For persons using walker – attach bicycle basket for frame.

**Harvesting:** Used for gathering crops.
Conventional items: Garden carts, child’s wagon, reacher.
Homemade versions: Cut-down milk container hanging around your neck.

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**Tool Grip Modifications:** Methods for adapting a variety of tools.
Upright Tool Grip – improves leverage and decreases wrist and hand strain.
Double-Handle Tool Grips – improves leverage and decreases wrist and hand strain.
Foam Pipe Insulation – for less severe grip limitations.
Tool Arm Support – adding an arm support to tool handles gives extra support.
Leather or Rubber Grips – makes grips more comfortable.