

KEEP ON GARDENING

KEEP ON GARDENING.....CREATE YOUR OWN TOOLS

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.

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.



Find us online:
txmg.org/elpaso



**El Paso
Master Gardeners**



epmastergardener

Revised: March 2020

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University Systems, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

We request that you contact our office at (915) 771-2354 at least one week in advance to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service you will require.