

InnOvaTive Ideas for Using Non-Gardening Tools in the Garden

Pistol-grip handle reachers (available at drug or medical supply stores) are a great way to bring the garden to you...for picking up items from the ground or that are out of comfortable reach, placing bulbs or seedlings into holes, and for pulling branches closer to you.

Children's watering cans work well if you have little to water or a big watering can is too heavy or awkward to maneuver because they are lightweight and compact.

- *Be sure that the handle feels comfortable and that when watering, your hand and arm are not in an awkward and uncomfortable position.*

A turkey baster or eye dropper can be used to water seedlings or delicate plants as you can easily direct the water flow.

- They are also a lightweight alternative to watering cans.

Plastic ice cream scoops (adapt handles with foam padding, duct tape, and compression wrap as needed- see *Adapting a Hand Garden Tool* info sheet) can be substituted for a trowel to fill small pots.

Store your gear in **garden apron**.

- Sew Velcro onto pockets so items do not fall out.

Use a **garbage can with wheels** to push large garden tools to the garden.

Plant a hand tool storage unit... no more spending time searching for missing garden tools.

- Purchase a plastic shoebox with a tight fitting lid- a hinged lid is ideal.
- Measure a 2" diameter piece of PVC that will reach to just above your waist if you are standing to garden or at hip level if you are sitting in a chair or wheelchair to garden. If using a small stool or sitting on the ground, find a height that feels best to you. [*Add 4-6 inches for 'planting' in the ground*].
- Drill holes through the PVC pipe and one long side of the box. *Make sure the lid of the box clears the top of the PVC pipe when it is closed.*
- Thread a bolt through the pipe and box and secure it in place with a washer and nut. *SECURING it TIGHTLY* in place is the key.
- To avoid scratches from the nut and bolt, wrapping a few layers of duct tape around them is a good idea.
- Securely plant your storage unit in a convenient spot in your garden. Store hand tools, gloves, and other small items in the box.