

# Accessible Gardening

NPR recently published an article, [Fearing Shortages, People Are Planting More Vegetable Gardens](#) where they interviewed George Ball, the executive chairman of the Burpee Seed company, based in Warminster, Penn. NPR reports Ball has noticed spikes in seed sales during bad times, but had not seen a spike this large and widespread.

Here are some accessibility considerations that can open up gardening to all:



## Environmental Considerations

Ensure that the paths are level, firm and free of any stumbling blocks, including loose gravel. A wheelchair or scooter requires a minimum of 40 inches to pass through and a 5-foot turning radius.



## Raised Beds

For individuals who are wheelchair bound, have back or joint pain, or are unable to kneel; raised garden beds can be a great solution. Confirm before constructing that the bed height allows the gardener to reach into the garden while seated or in a wheelchair. Consider constructing bench seating around the planting bed if kneeling or leaning is a point of concern.



## Tabletop Gardens

These gardens are shallow raised beds on legs that allow for the gardener to sit comfortably whether in a chair or wheelchair. Tabletop gardens are often shallow to make room for the gardeners legs while sitting and thus should only be used to grow shallow-rooted annuals and some vegetables and herbs.