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BUSINESS

**New Garden Tool
 Breaks New Ground**

The inventor of a new "all-in-one" gardening tool will be in town this weekend to demonstrate his new product. It doesn't look anything like the garden shovel or rake in the garage. This odd-looking device has the outline of a giant martini glass. At its base is a small box with a hole in it for attaching tool heads: a planter, a four-tined cultivator, a two-headed hoe, a three-pronged aerator.



Apollo Beach inventor Ray Miller, 67, says those lightweight tools will make life easier for gardeners like him who have some physical limitations. He is so confident that his invention will be a hit he has patents on it in the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Community, Japan and Australia.

Miller will be at Orchids Plus, at 326 Southard Street (just off Whitehead Street) to demonstrate the new tool system Friday and Saturday, March 24-25, noon until 4.

Miller created the system after suffering a heart attack.

He found he didn't have the strength or stamina for digging holes the old way. He searched the internet for a tool that would make it easier and came up empty.

Then he ran across a Web site on the history of tools and saw a picture of an Egyptian planter with a pointed stick.

I thought, "Wow, maybe we can modify that and make it work," he says.

Modify he did. That's how he came up with the unusual-looking "handle." The shape allows people to balance themselves while step-

ping on the base and drilling an attachment—the "power planter"—into the ground.

A smaller handle, which can be purchased separately, is designed for young gardeners who may have a hard time handling adult tools.

Millersays his tool system is ergonomically designed to allow people to do more work with less effort. The kit also comes with a storage tote, and each tool is guaranteed for life, he says.

Info: Orchids Plus 296-9973.

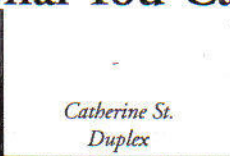
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