

April 2021

A Special Supplement to

**Name Newspaper**

# LAWN & GARDEN *Guide*



View this section online  
by scanning this code or @  
[www.namenewspaper.com/  
LawnandGardenGuide](http://www.namenewspaper.com/LawnandGardenGuide)

## Sod or Seed?

How to choose the best option for your lawn

## Picking Plants

Pairing plants with water features

## Accessible Gardening

How to garden from a wheelchair

**SOLAR ENERGY COMPANY**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <



Let section sales prospects like this one know **exactly how much local consumers plan to spend** with advertiser-specific regional data from the

*new AdSeller/*  
**Metro Teaser Program.**

**Email [service@metro-email.com](mailto:service@metro-email.com) now to get started.**



- 4 Sod vs. Seed: Which is your best option?
- 5 Choose grass that suits your climate and region
- 7 Lawn watering and fertilizing techniques
- 8 How to address moss in the lawn
- 9 Low-maintenance lawn alternatives
- 10 How to garden from a wheelchair
- 11 How ergonomic tools can help gardeners
- 12 Stay safe when working in the yard this spring and summer
- 14 Shade trees that can make yards more comfortable
- 15 Adding plants to water features
- 16 Swimming pool landscaping ideas
- 16 Exterior lighting can add ambience to a property
- 17 3 techniques to keep mosquitoes out of your backyard
- 18 How to respond to pesticide poisoning
- 18 Did you know – Pesticides in the air
- 19 Directory of Advertisers and Sponsors

FOR PRESENTATION

**HOME & GARDEN EXPO**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

**REALTOR**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

## GARDEN CENTER > ADVERTISE HERE <

**35.9%** of U.S. consumers  
plan to shop at a Home & Garden Store.  
That's **\$30,335,500,000** in annual spending!

*How much of this revenue is in your advertising area?*

Gain access to consumer data specific to your region and section advertisers with the new **AdSeller/Metro Teaser Program**, then approach sales targets in your area with this section and available ad position, wrapped with a Teaser page tailored to their business.

*Special*  
**TEASER  
PROGRAM**  
Introductory Rate  
**Only \$25** per  
month

**Instantly capture  
advertisers' attention  
and increase revenue**  
from every one of your  
special sections!

If you are already an AdSeller client, go to:  
[https://app.pulseresearch.com/a/focus/prospects/buying\\_power](https://app.pulseresearch.com/a/focus/prospects/buying_power)

---

## Sod vs. Seed:

### Which is your best option?

**A** pristine lawn can be the finishing touch to a landscape and add significant value to a home. According to a joint study by the University of Alabama and the University of Texas at Arlington, homes with high curb appeal sell for an average of 7 percent more than similar houses without inviting exteriors. When it comes to establishing a lawn, homeowners have two key options: starting from seed or installing sod. Each comes with its share of advantages and disadvantages. Which option makes the most sense for a given lawn will boil down to various factors, including homeowners' budgets.



#### Seed

Seed is the first thing homeowners may think of when planning a lawn. Seed is an inexpensive, easily installed option. Plus, garden centers sell a variety of seeds specific to particular regions and climates. The home improvement resource Fixr says seed will cost an average of 24 cents per square foot installed compared to \$1.29 for sod. That affordability compels many homeowners to turn to seed. However, seed can take up to two years to produce a lush lawn and it requires high maintenance in the initial months to establish the grass. Seed also requires greater soil preparation, including tilling to loosen soil and keeping the lawn well watered until the grass is hardy. Weeds also may mix in with seed more readily, meaning weed prevention becomes an additional task.

#### Sod

One of the advantages to sod is that it can produce an instant lawn. When time is of the essence, sod will produce a complete lawn nearly as soon as the sod is laid. Sod can be used to mitigate soil erosion, as it works faster than seed, which needs to establish a root system to keep soil in check. Also, sod does not require as much soil preparation as seed.



The potential disadvantages to sod are its cost and the time it takes to install it, particularly on a large property. In addition, sod will require careful maintenance for at least the first two weeks until the sod takes stronger roots. It can be an expensive mistake if sod doesn't thrive and new pieces need to be installed. The Family Handyman says sod tends to be sun-loving and may not work in shadier areas of a property. Sod and seed are the two main options for lush lawns. Each has its perks, and homeowners can speak with a local lawn specialist to determine which option is best for their lawn.

**PLANT NURSERY**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

**SOD INSTALLER**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

# Choose grass that suits your climate and region



Lush lawns feel great underfoot, add curb appeal to a home and are the crowning touches on complete landscapes. Establishing a vibrant lawn requires research, including determining which type of turf is the best fit for a property. The lawn experts at Pennington say that homeowners can set up their lawns for success by choosing turfgrasses that thrive in their region. According to the Home Depot, the two main types of grass for turf are warm-season grass and cool-season grass. Warm-season grasses grow best in hot weather. Most will go dormant and turn brown in cool temperatures. Warm-season grasses should be planted in late spring for the best chances of thriving. Cool-season grasses are better for northern climates, where the mercury will eventually drop. They are characterized by rapid growth in the spring and fall. Some may turn brown during periods of high summer heat. In certain instances, a mix of warm- and cool-season grasses may be needed. That's particularly so in the "transition zone" of the United States, according to Lowes. The transition zone runs from roughly Delaware to North Carolina on the east coast and central California to Arizona on the west coast. However, lawns in the transition zone typically fare best with cool-season grasses, indicates Lowes.

Here's a closer look at various types of grasses, courtesy of Pennington, Lowes and The Home Depot.

## Warm-season grasses

**Bahia:** This is a tough turfgrass especially suited for heat and humidity. It has a rougher texture than other grasses.

**Bermuda:** This produces a very drought-tolerant lawn and is great for high-traffic areas. It requires a lot of sunlight to grow.

**Buffalo:** This grass is low maintenance and tough. It has low water needs and a fine texture. Full sun exposure will produce a vibrant lawn.

**Centipede:** Popular throughout the southern United States, this slow-growing grass is ideal for homeowners who desire a low maintenance lawn. It has a coarse texture and is best in areas of low foot traffic.

## Cool-season grasses

**Fescue:** Fescue comes in many varieties and is good in areas with mild winters and warm summers. It has high drought-resistance and can endure medium foot traffic.

**Kentucky bluegrass:** Finely textured with a deep, evergreen color, this grass thrives in growing conditions marked by good soil, regular sunlight and routine watering.

**Perennial ryegrass:** This flourishes in full sun, but tolerates light shade. It forms a lush, finely textured, deep green lawn. During periods of drought, it will need additional watering or go dormant. Homeowners can increase their chances of establishing beautiful lawns by selecting the right type of grasses for their climate and landscape.

**ARBORIST**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <



Let section sales prospects like this one know **exactly how much local consumers plan to spend** with advertiser-specific regional data from the

*new AdSeller/*  
**Metro Teaser Program.**

Email [service@metro-email.com](mailto:service@metro-email.com)  
now to get started.

**STUMP REMOVAL SERVICE**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

## LANDSCAPING SERVICE > ADVERTISE HERE <

**13%** of U.S. consumers  
**plan to hire a Landscaping Service.**  
That's **\$54,080,000,000** in annual spending!

*How much of this revenue is in your advertising area?*

Gain access to consumer data specific to your region and section advertisers with the new **AdSeller/Metro Teaser Program**, then approach sales targets in your area with this section and available ad position, wrapped with a Teaser page tailored to their business.

*Special*  
**TEASER  
PROGRAM**  
Introductory Rate  
**Only \$25** per  
month

**Instantly capture  
advertisers' attention  
and increase revenue**  
from every one of your  
special sections!

If you are already an AdSeller client, go to:  
[https://app.pulseresearch.com/a/focus/prospects/buying\\_power](https://app.pulseresearch.com/a/focus/prospects/buying_power)

---



**A** lush, green lawn is a sight to behold. Many variables are involved in growing and maintaining grass, and water and fertilizer are among the most important components. Knowing how much water and fertilizer to apply and when to apply it can make

a big difference in the appearance and health of a lawn. That's because a well-fed and watered lawn will develop a better root system, which makes the lawn less vulnerable to stressors like drought, mowing, foot traffic, and heat, according to the Scotts® company.

### Fertilize

There is no magic formula governing when to fertilize a lawn. The type of grass and how well-established a lawn is must be considered. Experts suggest having the soil tested to determine its pH levels and if any nutrients are lacking. A fertilizing schedule can then be developed after testing. Keep in mind that overfeeding a lawn will not make it grow any better and actually can damage the turf. Several small applications of fertilizer during the lawn's most active growing period may

be helpful, advises the home improvement resource Tools Around the House. An annual application (late spring for warm-season grass or fall for cool-season grass) may be all that's needed.

Certain fertilizers need to be applied and watered in. Others may be combined with weed-control products and must be set on top of damp grass. Read packaging to determine the right application.

### Water

The right watering schedule and techniques can help a lawn thrive. Scotts® says adjusting for climate and nature can help grass to grow strongly. A lawn that has a grayish cast or appears dull green is telling an owner that it needs water. Another test is to step on the lawn. If footprints disappear

quickly, the grass blades have enough moisture to spring back.

Water the lawn in the morning before 10 a.m. when it's cooler and the winds tend to be calm so that the water can soak in. For those who must water at night, do so in early evening so that the water can dry before nightfall and will not contribute to disease.

Scotts® says to water an established lawn until the top six to eight inches of soil is wet. Most lawns need one to 1.5 inches of water per week from rain or a hose to soak the soil that deeply.

Newly established lawns may require more water to keep the soil moist but not soggy.

Visit a lawn care center for more information on watering the type of lawn for your area or visit [www.scotts.com](http://www.scotts.com) for additional tips.

**FOR PRESENTATION**

**INGROUND SPRINKLER INSTALLER**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

**GARDENING SERVICE**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

**3.8% of U.S. consumers  
plan to hire a Gardening Service.**  
That's \$7,904,000,000 in annual spending!

*How much of this revenue is in your advertising area?*

Gain access to consumer data specific to your region and section advertisers with the new AdSeller/Metro Teaser Program, then approach sales targets in your area with this section and available ad position, wrapped with a Teaser page tailored to their business.

*Special*  
**TEASER  
PROGRAM**  
Introductory Rate  
**Only \$25 per  
month**

Email [service@metro-email.com](mailto:service@metro-email.com)  
now to get started.

# How to **address** **moss** in the lawn

**L**awn care can be a labor of love. Maintaining a pristine lawn is no small task, but it's one that many homeowners proudly take on, knowing that all the hard work and time spent outside on sunny summer afternoons is well worth the sweat equity. After putting in so much effort to create a lush, green lawn, it's understandable if homeowners react with disbelief when something threatens the health of their turf. Moss is one such threat. Recognizing the threat moss poses is the first step to corralling it before it overtakes a lawn.

## Explaining moss

Moss can be especially menacing because its green appearance allows it to blend in with grass rather easily. As moss spreads, it becomes more noticeable. According to the turf care

experts at Scotts®, moss is a plant with shallow roots that spreads by spores and root-like structures called rhizoids. Moss is opportunistic, and it will grow where turfgrass is thin and weak. However, moss does not kill the grass. Rather, the conditions that promote the growth of moss can kill the grass. Such conditions may include compacted soil or excessive thatch, acidic or infertile soil, excessive shade, and insufficient or excessive watering.

## How can moss be controlled?

Penn State Extension notes that the first step to controlling moss is to test the soil. Soil test kits are inexpensive and available at most home renovation stores. Test results will reveal if the soil is lacking nutrients or if lime needs to be applied and when to apply it. Such a report also will indicate when to fertilize the lawn, which can help restore the



**Certain conditions, such as compacted soil or moisture, can allow moss to grow where turfgrass is struggling.**

turfgrass so it's more capable of competing with the moss. If the underlying cause of moss is shade and/or moisture in the yard, homeowners can speak with

landscaping professionals to discuss their options. Replacing existing turf with one that is well-suited to shade and/or moisture may prevent mold from overtaking the lawn in the future. Penn State Extension notes that some turfgrasses may be best-adapted to shaded, well-drained soils, while others may be more likely to thrive in shaded, moist soils. A local landscaping professional can help homeowners find a turf that will not only thrive in the conditions in their yards, but also in their local climates.

Moss can quickly take advantage of conditions that make it difficult for turfgrass to grow. Homeowners who recognize that moss is overtaking their lawn can address it in various ways.

**FOR PRESENTATION**  
**DECK BUILDER**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

**2.9% of U.S. consumers  
plan to hire a Deck Builder.**  
That's **\$28,652,000,000** in annual spending!

*How much of this revenue is in your advertising area?*

Gain access to consumer data specific to your region and section advertisers with the new **AdSeller/Metro Teaser Program**, then approach sales targets in your area with this section and available ad position, wrapped with a Teaser page tailored to their business.

*Special*  
**TEASER**  
**PROGRAM**  
Introductory Rate  
**Only \$25** per  
month

**Instantly capture  
advertisers' attention  
and increase revenue**  
from every one of your  
special sections!

Email [service@metro-email.com](mailto:service@metro-email.com) now to get started.

If you are already an AdSeller client, go to:  
[https://app.pulseresearch.com/a/focus/prospects/buying\\_power](https://app.pulseresearch.com/a/focus/prospects/buying_power)



# Low-maintenance lawn alternatives

A traditional lawn may not be right for every property nor desired by every homeowner. There is no denying that lawns take time and effort to establish and daily or weekly maintenance to thrive. Homeowners who find that a traditional lawn is not practical can explore some low-maintenance alternatives.

## Wildflower meadow

Homeowners with wide swaths of property may discover meadows are cost- and time-efficient. Stores sell special wildflower meadow mixes of seeds or homeowners can use wildflower plug plants throughout areas where grasses are left to grow longer. This natural area can be a home to wildlife and an idyllic backdrop to a home. Most meadows only require a spring or summer and autumn cut to thrive and look good.

## Ornamental grasses

Partition areas of the property for ornamental grasses to grow. The gardening resource Elemental Green says ornamental grasses tend to be drought-resistant and low-maintenance. They won't need much fertilizer and are often resistant to pests as well. Ornamental grasses grow in tufts or sprays and will not require mowing. However, they are not ideal for areas that get foot traffic.

## Moss

Moss can thrive in shady areas and ones where the soil tends to stay a bit damp. Moss is velvety soft and green, so it can mimic the look of a traditional lawn but won't require mowing and other upkeep. Because it spreads quickly, moss can take over quite rapidly. You will need to protect areas



where you do not want moss by creating barriers to stop spread.

## Gravel

Stone and gravel areas can reduce maintenance in the landscape and require very little upkeep. When gravel is installed correctly, weeds may not grow readily. Gravel installation may include laying heavy-duty, semi-permeable landscape fabric, which is available in home improvement centers. Gravel is cheaper than pavers and can be just as beautiful.

## Artificial turf

If the desired look is a lawn without all the upkeep, there are various artificial grass options on the market. Homeowners who opt for artificial turf can save money and space devoted to lawn mowers and other lawn tools. Grass may be ideal for some, but there are alternatives for people who have troublesome landscapes or desire a low-maintenance product for their homes.

## ARTIFICIAL TURF INSTALLER

> ADVERTISE HERE <



Let section sales prospects like this one know **exactly how much local consumers plan to spend** with advertiser-specific regional data from the

*new AdSeller/*  
**Metro Teaser Program.**

**Email [service@metro-email.com](mailto:service@metro-email.com) now to get started.**

## ROCK & STONE COMPANY

> ADVERTISE HERE <



## How to garden from a wheelchair

Address issues that may impair how you can function in the garden, such as accessibility. For example, if the garden is far away from the physical structure of your home, you may feel exhausted by the time you get to the garden, which can affect your productivity and progress. Prior to starting a garden, consider the potential that such issues may arise and then try to build a garden that makes it easy to overcome them.

**Consider raised beds.** The Reeve Foundation highly recommends raised beds for anyone gardening from a wheelchair. When designing such beds, make sure they're narrow so they can be conveniently accessed from your wheelchair.

**Consider hanging baskets.** Hanging baskets also can be a great option for anyone gardening from a wheelchair. Hanging baskets can provide aesthetic appeal inside and outside of a home, and such baskets can be accessed with a pulley system that makes it easy for gardeners to prune and water plants.

**Use specialized tools.** The online medical resource Verywell Health notes that various manufacturers have recognized there's a market for adaptive gardening tools. Such tools make it easier for people in wheelchairs to indulge their passion for planting. Adaptive tools like trowels, cultivators and hoes can make it easier for gardeners to perform all the standard gardening tasks. Ergonomic adaptive gardening tools can help gardeners avoid the joint pain that can arise from using more traditional, non-ergonomic tools.

**Make it a team effort.** Gardening with a loved one can make the hobby even more enjoyable for anyone, including people gardening from their wheelchairs. Seniors can garden alongside their grandchildren and/or friends who also have mobility issues, ensuring no one gets too tired or falls behind.

Anyone can enjoy gardening, and that includes people in wheelchairs.

**G**ardening is a wonderful activity that people from all walks of life enjoy. A garden full of fresh fruits and vegetables and/or beautiful blooms can instill a sense of pride in gardeners and turn their backyards into colorful, peaceful respites.

Anyone with the will to do so can plant their own garden, and that includes people who are confined to wheelchairs. Gardening from a wheelchair may present some unique challenges, but such obstacles are no

reason for wheelchair-bound gardening enthusiasts to steer clear of this rewarding activity.

In recognition of the challenges of gardening from a wheelchair, the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation offers the following tips to wheelchair-bound gardening enthusiasts.

**Match the garden to your abilities.**

The Reeve Foundation notes that trying to push beyond your limits can affect how much you enjoy gardening.

**GARDEN CENTER**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

**HARDWARE STORE**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

# How ergonomic tools can help gardeners



**G**ardening is a rewarding activity that has been found to provide a host of benefits beyond ensuring readily available access to fresh fruits, vegetables and awe-inspiring blooms. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says many gardening tasks qualify as light to moderate exercise, which means raking the leaves and cutting the grass can be just as beneficial as cardiovascular activities like brisk walking or jogging. In addition, a 2017 study published in the journal *Preventive Medicine Reports* found that gardening can help aging men and women offset age-related weight gain.

And the health benefits of gardening go beyond the physical. In 2014, a systematic review of randomized controlled trials published in *Complementary Therapies in Medicine* concluded that horticultural therapy may be an effective treatment for people with dementia.

Gardeners have a host of tools at their disposal to help turn their lawns and gardens into awe-inspiring landscapes. Among those options are ergonomic tools. Ergonomic tools can benefit gardeners of all ages, but they may prove especially valuable for aging men and women.

## How ergonomic tools differ from traditional gardening tools

Ergonomic gardening tools are designed to ensure that using them has as little effect on the body as possible. Ergonomic tools align with how a person naturally moves his or her body, which can reduce the likelihood that gardeners will suffer any strains or sprains while gardening or experience any aches and pains after a day spent tending to their landscapes.

## Choosing the right tools

The West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities notes that gardeners will know they have chosen

the right ergonomic gardening tool for the job when they do not have to adapt the tool. Ergonomic tools should match gardeners' heights, fit their grip and feel comfortable when in use.

## Specific benefits of ergonomic tools

Ergonomic gardening tools are designed in a way that can reduce stress on the body while performing various tasks. Gardeners know that aches and pains can add up after a day spent kneeling in the garden, raking soil and carrying supplies from a shed or garage around the property. But the WVUCED notes that ergonomic tools do more than just reduce gardeners' risk of injury.

## Ergonomic tools increase efficiency.

Wasted motions are less likely when using ergonomic tools. That can improve efficiency in the garden, allowing gardeners to get more done in the same amount of time. And because ergonomic tools are designed to work with the body, gardeners likely won't need to take breaks due to aches and pains, which also makes it easier to be more efficient when working in the garden.

## Ergonomic tools increase gardeners' capabilities.

The WVUCED notes that principles behind ergonomics keep gardeners using the tools in natural positions. That means gardeners won't lose power to bending and twisting, enabling them to do more in the garden than they might be able to do when using non-ergonomic tools.

Gardening is a rewarding and beneficial activity. The right ergonomic tools for the job can enhance those benefits and make gardening even more enjoyable.

**CHIROPRACTOR**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

**TOOL RENTAL COMPANY**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

# Stay safe when working in the yard this spring and summer



**A** day spent working in the yard is an ideal way to pass the time on spring and summer afternoons. A pristine landscape can add value to a property and instill pride in homeowners who put a lot of thought and effort into their lawns and gardens.

A sun-soaked day can make it easy to overlook potential threats when working in a lawn or garden. But safety precautions are of the utmost necessity when working in the yard, where the risk for serious injury is considerable. For example, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons reports that, in 2016, more than 90,000 patients, including nearly 5,000 children, were treated in hospital emergency rooms for lawn mower-related injuries.

Lawn- and garden-related injuries can be prevented without going to great lengths.

#### **Know your terrain before mowing.**

Knowing the terrain in your own yard can reduce the risk for accident or injury. This can be especially important when mowing the lawn with a riding mower. Adhere to manufacturers' recommendations regarding inclines to reduce tip-over accidents that can pin riders beneath the mower. Study hilly areas of the yard prior to mowing so you know which areas are safe to mow with a riding mower and which areas are best mowed with a walk-behind mower. For greater control when using a walk-behind mower on an incline, mow parallel to the slope.

#### **Apply and reapply sunscreen.**

Sunburns may not require trips to the emergency room, but they can still be serious. In fact, the Skin Cancer Foundation notes that sunburn is a leading cause in the majority of cases of basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma, which is the deadliest form of skin cancer. The SCF recommends applying sunscreen 30 minutes before going outside to allow the sunscreen to bond to your skin. Reapply sunscreen at least every two hours, and more often if you're sweating excessively. The SCF

recommends broad spectrum sunscreens, which protect the skin from both UVA and UVB rays. Though a product with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 is acceptable when walking the dog or driving to work, the SCF advises using a product with an SPF of 30 or higher when engaging in extended outdoor activities like gardening or mowing.

**Employ the buddy system.** Use the buddy system when pruning tall trees or performing any tasks that require a ladder. The Orthopedic Institute of Pennsylvania reports that more than 164,000 people are injured each year falling off a ladder. Ask a significant other or neighbor to hold the ladder in place while you climb up to reduce your risk of falling. If cutting large branches, cut them piecemeal to reduce the risk of being injured by heavy falling branches.

#### **Inspect the property for insect hives.**

The OIP notes that the most common insect stings in spring come from bees, wasps and hornets. Homeowners who are not careful can inadvertently come across hives when doing spring cleanup, making them vulnerable to bites and stings. That can be very dangerous for anyone, and especially so for people with a history of allergic reactions to insect bites or stings. Inspect areas where you'll be working to make sure insects haven't put down roots in your property. If you discover any hives and are hesitant to remove them on your own, contact a local landscaping firm.

Lawn and garden accidents and injuries can be serious. Thankfully, accidents and injuries are easily prevented when homeowners take a few simple safety precautions while tending to their lawns and gardens.

FOR PRES

**URGENT CARE CLINIC**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

**LAWN MOWER SALES**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

## PEST CONTROL SERVICE > ADVERTISE HERE <

**13.1%** of U.S. consumers  
**plan to hire a Pest Control Service.**  
That's **\$3,916,900,000** in annual spending!

*How much of this revenue is in your advertising area?*

Gain access to consumer data specific to your region and section advertisers with the new **AdSeller/Metro Teaser Program**, then approach sales targets in your area with this section and available ad position, wrapped with a Teaser page tailored to their business.

*Special*  
**TEASER  
PROGRAM**  
Introductory Rate  
**Only \$25** per  
month

**Instantly capture  
advertisers' attention  
and increase revenue**  
from every one of your  
special sections!

If you are already an AdSeller client, go to:  
[https://app.pulseresearch.com/a/focus/prospects/buying\\_power](https://app.pulseresearch.com/a/focus/prospects/buying_power)

---

# Shade trees that can make yards more comfortable



Various factors motivate the decisions homeowners make when designing their landscapes. Some may be motivated by the ways additions will affect the resale value of their homes, while others may be guided by a love for a particular type of plant. Comfort is yet another motivator, and shade trees can make yards more comfortable as the mercury rises. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, the following are some popular shade trees that can add beauty to a landscape and make it more comfortable come the dog days of summer.

**Quaking aspen:** The quaking aspen has the widest natural range of any tree in North America, spanning 47 degrees of latitude, 110 degrees of longitude (nine time zones) and elevations from sea level to timberline. That impressive range is no doubt why the United States Forest Service notes that the quaking aspen can grow in greatly diverse regions, environments and communities.

**Northern catalpa:** The Arbor Day Foundation notes that the northern catalpa is easily identifiable thanks to its heart-shaped leaves and twisting trunks and branches. Nature enthusiasts, and particularly those who enjoy birdwatching, may be happy to learn that the flowers of the catalpa are frequently visited by hummingbirds.

**Red sunset maple:** Its name alone makes many people think of lazy summer days spent lounging in the yard. The red sunset maple provides ample shade and comes with the added benefit of producing an awe-inspiring blend of red and orange leaves come the fall. Red sunset maples can survive in a range of

habitats and their adaptable roots means they can thrive in various soil types.

**Northern red oak:** The state tree of New Jersey, the northern red oak is, according to the Arbor Day Foundation, both beloved for its aesthetic appeal and valued for its adaptability and usefulness. Northern red oaks can tolerate urban conditions, but they do not do well in hot climates.

**Sawtooth oak:** Another tree that produces some awe-inspiring color, the sawtooth oak is a durable, adaptable shade tree. Golden yellow leaves in the spring will give way to dark green in summer, only to turn yellow and golden brown in the fall. The Tree Center Plant Supply Co. notes that the sawtooth oak can thrive in warmer climates where shade trees that can coexist with high temperatures can be hard to find.

Shade trees can add beauty to a property and make a yard more comfortable. Homeowners are urged to discuss shade trees with a local lawn and garden professional prior to planting.

FOR PRESERVATION

**TREE NURSERY**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

**AWNING COMPANY**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

# Adding plants to water features

**W**ater features can make for relaxing and eye-catching additions to outdoor spaces. According to the online gardening resource Garden Know-How, a water feature is any landscape enhancement that uses water and other material to bring tranquility and beauty to a space. Thanks to their soothing sounds and aesthetic appeal, water features like ponds and fountains are often included in healing gardens. But they can be used in any and all landscapes. Homeowners can explore various water features, such as waterfalls, koi ponds and even rain bells, which offer soothing chime sounds when it rains. One consideration when installing a water feature is whether or not to incorporate live plants. Certain plants are better suited for water features than others.

## Surrounding plants

It is possible to create a miniature ecosystem in a yard by surrounding a

water feature with certain plants. Gardening Know-How advises using canna lily or taro at the edge of a pond. These plants thrive with roots in mud and their tops in shallow water. Broadleaf arrowhead is another option, as it can do well in a pond's shallow edges. It's a perennial so it will come back and requires little maintenance.

## Floating plants

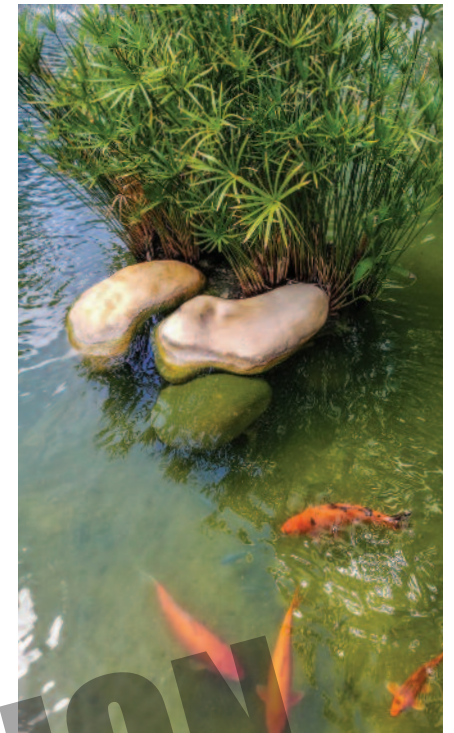
Many plants can live on the surface of the water and provide hiding spots for wildlife in a natural water feature setting. Lotus, also called water lily, is a popular and fragrant option. Water hyacinth produces vibrant lavender flowers that pop on stems that can reach three feet in height. This stunning species can be invasive, but it can be managed by planting within a hoop or submerged woven basket, indicates Happy DIY Home. Other free-floating plants to consider are duckweed, fairy moss and butterfly fern. Floating plants look

beautiful and they can help filter water and control algae growth.

## Submerged plants

Submerged plants are a necessity in water features that have fish. Submerged plants are grown in weighted pots placed on the bottom of the pond. They provide shelter for fish and help oxygenate the water. Hornwort, anacharis, water milfoil, and dwarf sagittaria are some examples of submerged plants.

Water features attract wildlife, including potentially pesky insects. Planting pitcher plants in submerged pots can help reduce the presence of unwanted insects in a water feature. Some water-loving plants are invasive, so it is always best to check with a local agricultural extension or the Department of Environmental Protection to see if certain floating or submerged plants are restricted where you live. For those who want to contain plants, placing pots of



cascading greenery and flowers near to fountains, pools and ponds is another way to add appeal without having to dig in the ground.

FOR PRESENTATION

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

**FENCING CONTRACTOR**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

**2.8% of U.S. consumers  
plan to hire a Fencing Contractor.**  
That's \$10,192,000,000 in annual spending!

*How much of this revenue is in your advertising area?*

Gain access to consumer data specific to your region and section advertisers with the new AdSeller/Metro Teaser Program, then approach sales targets in your area with this section and available ad position, wrapped with a Teaser page tailored to their business.

*Special*  
**TEASER  
PROGRAM**  
Introductory Rate  
**Only \$25 per  
month**

Email [service@metro-email.com](mailto:service@metro-email.com)  
now to get started.

# Swimming pool landscaping ideas



**B**ackyard pools provide a way to cool off and enjoy a taste of luxury without having to travel. Backyard pools provided even more convenience and a welcome respite in 2020, as many public pools were closed in response to social distancing restrictions put in place during the pandemic.

After installing pools, many homeowners realize that touching up the landscaping around the pool can provide the finishing touch to their backyard retreats. Not all landscaping is the same, and homeowners should choose plants that look beautiful, are tolerant to pool splash-out and won't outgrow the area. The home and garden resource The Spruce notes that a plant that is attractive at two feet tall can grow rapidly and drop leaves or other debris into the pool.

When selecting options for pool landscaping, there are some considerations to keep in mind:

- Choose plants that will provide privacy.
- Know which kind of climate a plant needs prior to purchasing it. Tropical plants may be fitting poolside, but will they endure when the season is over?
- Design according to the theme of the home, as plants should complement the existing style. Modern foliage may not blend well with a home styled after a traditional English cottage.

- Decide whether you can accept spreading or trailing plants that can cascade over retaining walls and other infrastructure.
- Look at trees that won't drop too many leaves, flowers or fruit into the water.
- Think about having layers of plants to soften the landscape, which can make a small pool seem bigger and more luxurious, indicates the landscaping company Earth Development, Inc.
- Don't overlook the possibility of a lawn abutting pavers or concrete surrounding a pool, as it can soften the edges and keep spaces open and inviting.
- Incorporate herbs or fragrant plants, which can transform a pool day into a spa experience. Consider low maintenance lavender as an option.

Pool landscaping must marry a variety of different features and plant requirements. As a result, a professional consultation may be the route to take. Landscape architects will have the know-how to select plant varieties that will be tolerant, beautiful and fulfill homeowners' wishes. Backyard pools can make a backyard retreat that much more enjoyable. Landscaping offers the softness and beauty that adds a finishing touch to poolside retreats.



## Exterior lighting can **add** **ambience** to a property

**T**he value of the right lighting in a home is undeniable. Lighting can instantly transform a room and create the ambience homeowners are looking to establish. Though it might be mostly seen as a way to create mood inside a home, lighting also can do much for lawns and gardens.

Backyards have come a long way over the last several decades. Once reserved as play areas for children and stompng grounds for the family dog, backyards have become oases for homeowners and their families. Outdoor living areas are wildly popular, and no such area is complete without exterior lighting. In fact, a recent report from the National Association of Home Builders found that 85 percent of home buyers want exterior lighting, making it the second most desired outdoor feature (patios topped that list).

Exterior lighting can have a dramatic effect on landscaping, and estimates from the online financial resource Kiplinger.com suggest such lighting is inexpensive, with installation averaging roughly \$67 per fixture. When installing exterior lighting around their landscapes, homeowners can keep various tips in mind to create a relaxing, awe-inspiring mood on their properties at night.

**Consider uplights.** Uplights are installed in the ground and direct light up at a tree, focusing on its trunk or canopy. This creates a dramatic effect that makes it possible to enjoy majestic trees

at night just like you might when spending time in the yard during the day.

**Focus on trees.** Many homeowners already have exterior lighting lining their walkways and patios, but focusing on trees can create an entirely different look. Though it's possible to install exterior tree lighting on your own, landscaping professionals with lighting experience know which fixtures will pair most effectively with the trees around your property and how to arrange them for maximum effect.

**Opt for warm light.** Warm white light creates an inviting feel around the property. The exterior lighting experts at Utah Lights acknowledge that choice of lighting is up to homeowners but also note that, in situations with lower levels of ambient light, such as in exterior lights around a property, people typically prefer warmer light. That's because warm light tends to be easier on the eyes and directs attention to the features of the landscape, which is many homeowners' goal when installing exterior lighting in their yards.

Utilize a timer. Modern exterior lighting timers make it easier than ever to control the lights outside a home. Many such timers even adjust for the changing seasons and the shifting hours of daylight. That means homeowners shouldn't have to tinker with the timer once it's set.

Exterior lighting can add significant appeal to a property without breaking the bank.



# 3 techniques to keep mosquitoes out of your backyard



**A backyard retreat can be even more enjoyable when homeowners find ways to keep mosquitoes at bay.**

**T**he value of a retreat-like backyard was never more apparent than in 2020. Over the last year-plus, much of the world has been forced to stay home as a global pandemic has claimed millions of lives while countless others have had to fight to survive in hospitals. It's no surprise people have looked for a respite from the harsh realities of living during a deadly pandemic, and many turned their attention to their own backyards to provide such an escape. The online home remodeling platform Houzz reported a 58 percent annual increase in project leads for home professionals in June 2020. Contractors who specialize in outdoor spaces saw the biggest increase in demand. A revamped outdoor space can provide the perfect retreat for homeowners who want to get away from it all. But one winged, unwelcome guest can quickly transform an oasis into an uninviting space. Mosquitoes make their presence felt in many areas each summer. These pesky, often hungry insects can carry disease, and their bites can be painful and itchy. Homeowners can try these three techniques to keep mosquitoes out of their backyards.

## 1. Remove standing water.

Standing water is a breeding ground for mosquitoes, who don't even need a lot of water to successfully breed. A daily walk around the property may uncover kids' toys, empty flower pots or other small receptacles

that can collect water. Even clogged gutters can lead to the accumulation of a small amount of water, and that can be enough for mosquitoes to breed. Remove these potential breeding grounds when you find them, and do so each day, as mosquitoes mature from eggs to nymphs in roughly four days.

## 2. Mow regularly.

Mowing the lawn so the grass never gets too high is another way to make a backyard less hospitable to mosquitoes. The pest experts at Terminix® note that mosquitoes seek tall grass to protect them from the elements, including wind and hot summer sun. Mowing enough so grass never gets too high in summer can make backyards less inviting to mosquitoes.

## 3. Plant with mosquitoes in mind.

The home remodeling experts at HGTV note that plants can be part of homeowners' strategy to repel mosquitoes. Various plants have mosquito-repellant qualities. For example, bee balm releases a fragrance as it grows, and mosquitoes don't like that fragrance. Homeowners can speak with a local lawn and garden professional for recommendations about plants that can thrive in their region and repel mosquitoes at the same time.

Mosquitoes can make it hard to enjoy a backyard oasis. But various strategies can help homeowners keep these unwanted guests out of their backyards.

**FIRE PIT RETAILER**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

**CONCRETE CONTRACTOR**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

# How to respond to pesticide poisoning

**T**ending to a lawn and garden can be a great way to spend time in the great outdoors. It's also an enjoyable way to improve a home's curb appeal.

Though many homeowners prefer a wholly organic approach to lawn care and gardening, sometimes pests and other problems force people to apply pesticides around their properties.

The application of pesticides can make homeowners, and anyone who spends time on their properties, including children, vulnerable to pesticide poisoning.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, people exposed to pesticides may exhibit a host of symptoms. External irritants that come into contact with the skin can cause redness, itching or pimples, and such substances also may contribute to allergic reactions marked by redness, swelling or blistering. Stinging and swelling in the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, mouth, and throat also may occur after being exposed to pesticides.

Pesticides also can cause internal injuries to a person's organs, potentially leading to significant issues. The EPA notes that the lungs, stomach and nervous system all can be affected when pesticides are swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin. People experiencing lung injuries after exposure to pesticides may experience shortness of breath, heavy salivation (drooling) or rapid breathing. Injuries to

the stomach may lead to symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, or diarrhea. If the nervous system is affected by pesticide exposure, people may experience excessive fatigue, sleepiness, headache, muscle twitching, and numbness.

If pesticide poisoning is suspected, it's imperative that someone, be it the person who was poisoned, the parent of a child who may have been exposed or a medical professional treating the affected person, identify the type of poisoning that has occurred. That's because the EPA notes that the appropriate treatment will depend on the kind of poisoning that has occurred.

**Chemical burn on skin:** If treating a chemical burn on the skin, the EPA advises drenching the skin with water for at least 15 minutes. All contaminated clothing should be removed and then skin and hair should be thoroughly cleaned with soap and water.

**Inhaled poison:** The response to an inhaled poison will depend on where the person is at the time of exposure. If outside, move the person away from any area recently treated with pesticide. If inside, move the person to fresh air immediately (doors and windows should ultimately be opened to reduce the risk of others being exposed). Contact the local fire department if you think you need a respirator prior to helping the victim. If the victim is wearing tight clothing, loosen that clothing. Give artificial respiration to a victim



whose skin is blue or if the victim has stopped breathing.

**Substance in the eye:** If a poison has entered the eye, wash the eye quickly and gently with cool running water for 15 minutes or more. Use only water and do not use eye drops, chemicals or drugs. It's imperative that people act quickly if a substance has gotten into the eye, as membranes in the eyes act faster than in any other external part of the body, and eye damage can occur within minutes of exposure.

**Substance on the skin:** Drench the skin with water for at least 15 minutes and then wash skin and hair thoroughly.

Discard contaminated clothing or thoroughly wash it separate from other laundry.

**Swallowed pesticide:** If a pesticide has been swallowed and the victim is still conscious, he or she should drink a small amount of water to dilute the pesticide. Only induce vomiting on the advice of a poison control center or physician.

Pesticide exposure can be very dangerous. It's imperative that people who plan to apply pesticides in their lawns and gardens learn how to respond if they or someone on their property is exposed to pesticides.

**PHARMACY**  
> ADVERTISE HERE <

## Did you know?

**A**ccording to the Environmental Protection Agency, air currents can carry pesticides that were applied to nearby properties. That means even people who do not apply pesticides in their lawns and gardens can still be at risk of exposure to these potentially harmful chemicals. People concerned by the prospect of being exposed to the pesticides being applied by their neighbors can stay indoors with their children and pets while the

substances are being applied. Those who live near fields and parks where pesticides are routinely applied can plant hardy, thick-branched trees to reduce their risk of airborne exposure. The EPA notes that such plants and shrubs can serve as buffers against airborne pesticides, essentially acting as walls around a property that prevent gusty winds from blowing pesticides into yards and gardens.



## OUTDOOR FURNITURE STORE > ADVERTISE HERE <

2.4% of U.S. consumers  
plan to shop at an Outdoor Furniture Store.  
That's \$2,730,000,000 in annual spending!

*How much of this revenue is in your advertising area?*

Gain access to consumer data specific to your region and section advertisers with the new AdSeller/Metro Teaser Program, then approach sales targets in your area with this section and available ad position, wrapped with a Teaser page tailored to their business.

*Special*  
**TEASER  
PROGRAM**  
Introductory Rate  
**Only \$25** per  
month

Instantly capture  
advertisers' attention  
and increase revenue  
from every one of your  
special sections!

If you are already an AdSeller client, go to:  
[https://app.pulseresearch.com/a/focus/prospects/buying\\_power](https://app.pulseresearch.com/a/focus/prospects/buying_power)