

LAWN & LEISURE



Harvest HOME

Just like that, the summer has come and gone. Another summer gone too soon...but don't be too sad, the fall and winter season offer so much opportunity for décor and creativity! Who doesn't love feeling festive? Some of the nation's favorite holidays fall between the months of October and December. Hello Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas! Getting your lawn & home ready for the "fallidays" is far from boring.

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5 TIPS FOR CANNING YOUR LATE SUMMER *Fruits & Veggies*

1 CHOOSE YOUR CANNER WISELY.

The boiling-water canner – *basically a big pot with a lid and a rack in the bottom* – is used for high-acid foods, which naturally resist bacteria growth. Pressure canners are used with low-acid foods and recipes that are especially prone to harboring harmful microorganisms. They heat food hotter than boiling-water canners. Recipes will specify which type of canner is appropriate.

2 CHOOSE THE RIGHT JARS.

Use jars made specifically for canning. Don't use glass jars from purchased food or jars that look different from the canning jars currently on the market. Also, avoid jars with chipped edges because that can affect the seal.

3 USE LIDS PROPERLY.

Use the special two-piece lids manufactured for canning. Reuse rings but do not reuse lids, which have a sticky compound that seals the jar. Don't screw on lids too tightly or they won't create a vacuum seal. Heat the lids in very hot but not boiling water or the compound won't seal.

4 CHOOSE THE RIGHT RECIPE.

Modern canning recipes are safer than those from even 20 years ago. Foods may be processed longer or hotter. Always use tested recipes from reliable, current sources and follow the recipe exactly.

5 KEEP IT CLEAN & HOT.

Keep everything scrupulously clean. Wash and sterilize jars. Pack hot food into hot jars one at a time – not assembly-line style. Take only one sterilized jar out of the canner at a time. As soon as it is filled, place it back in the simmering water in the canner.



BONUS TIP:

Give your canned fruits and veggies some personality by adding some fun labels...*like these!*

[Download your own HERE.](#)



festive wreaths

Hanging a festive wreath is an easy way to give your home that seasonal feel. Wreaths are great for both fall & winter, and they can be used both indoors & out!



comfy living room throws



Make your living room extra cozy for those holiday movie nights. There is nothing quite little cuddling up under a knitted blanket on a chilly day!

trendy autumn décor

table centerpieces

Much like wreaths, a festive centerpiece is a classic addition to seasonal décor. Centerpieces can also make fun DIY projects and give your house that extra homey feel over the holidays.



spruced-up front stoops

Everyone knows that first impressions are the most important! Wow your guests when they walk up your front steps by adding some simple seasonal décor. A few festive plants or some freshly picked pumpkins and squash can go a long way!



Pre-Winter Lawn Care for Your Home

FEED & FERTILIZE

It's been a long hot summer and your lawn is feeling the effects. Symptoms of drought, disease, insects and weeds have taken their toll leaving your lawn thin, patchy and weak. Fall is the perfect time to start preparing your lawn to survive the winter. Similar to a bear going into hibernation, your lawn needs to be fed essential nutrients to ensure its longevity. Applying a late fall/winter fertilizer will help bare areas recover and ensure your lawn greens up quickly next spring.

CLEAN UP TOYS, FURNITURE & DEBRIS

Stack plastic chairs, rake or mulch fallen leaves and relocate toys and tools to your garage. Leaving these items on the lawn over the winter will smother and suffocate your lawn, making it more susceptible to disease and infestation.

SEASONAL WATERING & MOWING

Heading into the cooler season, it is important to adapt your lawn maintenance practices to meet the changing needs of your lawn. During the usual temperature drop that takes place in October and November, homeowners often find it difficult to maintain a balanced watering regimen. Just like during the hot, dry weather of summer, you should only water your lawn when it needs it. Keep an eye on rainfall and remember that your lawn only needs one inch of water per week to thrive. When it comes to mowing, it is a good idea to lower your mower height heading into the fall season. When the grass is cut short, it stands up like a wire brush instead of laying down flat. This helps reduce ice and snow damage that is common throughout the winter months.



HOMEWORK HEADQUARTERS



It's that time of year again! The kids are going back to school. You've bought their supplies, new shoes and a backpack but there is one thing you may not have thought of...*creating a homework headquarters!* Having a designated study area can help your kids improve their focus by removing distractions, allowing them to build good work habits.

✔ **Pick a space with fewer distractions.** While some kids might be able to do homework in their rooms, others might get distracted. Pick an open space where you can easily supervise with limited distraction such as the living room, dining room or office.



✔ **Have a calendar.** Keep track of important dates and deadlines by keeping them all in one place! This will help your child stay organized and make sure everything gets done on time.

✔ **Have a designated backpack spot.** Whether it's a special cubby or backpack hook, make sure your child has a spot to put their bag right when they walk in the door!

✔ **Organize their supplies.** Keep your supplies organized, re-stocked and readily available for use!

✔ **Make it comfy.** Get a comfortable chair with good support. Add some pillows and make it cozy so that they will be able to sit there and focus of extended periods of time.

✔ **Hang a bulletin board.** Use a bulletin board to keep track of important forms, permission slips and to-do lists!



✔ **Add some greenery.** Make the study space more inviting by adding a few plants. Bringing a little piece of the outdoors indoors will make homework time a little more bearable.



ASSESSING SUMMER'S IMPACT ON YOUR LAWN

Summer is one of the hardest times of the year for your turf. The extreme heat and lack of rain make your lawn more susceptible to lawn disease and insect infestation. These harsh conditions then make it easier for weeds to infiltrate your weakened grass structure and take over your

previously beautiful lawn. Assessing the impact that the summer had on your lawn is the crucial first step to helping repair any observed damage. Below, we talk about a few things you should keep an eye out for!

bare spots

Does your lawn have thinning or bare areas? This can often be due to the increased foot traffic that your lawn experiences during the summer months mixed with a combination of heat and drought. Those family BBQs, doggy play dates and backyard birthday parties don't go without leaving their mark. These bare spots will make your lawn more susceptible to weed growth throughout the season. It is recommended that homeowners oversee these areas to promote new growth and thicken up existing turf, creating a strong defense against weeds.

drought + dormancy

Believe it or not, during the hot dry months of the summer our lawns have their own defense mechanism. When your lawn recognizes that there is a period of drought it will go into a temporary dormant state or "survival mode". During this time your lawn is dry, thinning out, discolored and experiencing little to no growth. This is because your lawn is using all of its resources to focus on its root zone to survive and while it may look dead, the grass's crown is very much alive. It is important to not be too alarmed if your lawn goes through this cycle, when normal rainfall and lower temperatures return, your lawn will return to its green and healthy state within 3-6 weeks.

insect damage

Insect damage can show itself in many ways depending on the type of infestation. Some of the most common lawn insects include white grubs, bill bugs, chinch bugs and a few different insects of the caterpillar variety, including sod webworms, cutworms and armyworms. Some of the most identifiable signs of these insects include dry, yellow or dying patches of grass and a destroyed root system. If your lawn rolls back like a carpet or if you notice animals or birds digging up your lawn this might be an indication of infestation. Treating an infestation in a timely manner is extremely important in limiting the extent of the damage.

compaction

Soil compaction is often due to foot traffic, vehicle traffic and poor soil composition- such as clay-based soil. Some common symptoms of compacted soil are thatch-build up, water run-off, a dry lawn and lawn disease. In order to help alleviate soil compaction, it is recommended that homeowners aerate their lawn once every year. This will allow water, nutrients and oxygen to penetrate the grass roots and will promote a healthier, greener lawn.



GUEST FEATURE

Through the Ivy Covered Window's GARDEN SALSA

What You'll Need (Makes 6 Cups)

- 1/2 cup lime juice
- 4 scotch bonnet peppers (small)
- 1 red heirloom chili pepper (small)
- 1 red pepper large and sweet
- 1 red onion
- 15 ripe Roma tomatoes
- 5 cloves of garlic
- 2 cups of cilantro, chopped
- 1/3 cup fresh oregano
- 1/3 cup fresh chives or green onion
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 2 tsp sugar or Splenda

Recipe Steps

1. Starting with the herbs and garlic pulse several times in a food processor. Empty herbs into a large bowl.
2. Rough chop red onion, then pulse in the food processor a few times until small dice is achieved and empty into the bowl.
3. Follow the same procedure for red pepper, and small hot peppers. *I removed all of the seeds from the peppers and tomatoes before adding them to the food processor.
4. For the tomatoes, I roughly chopped then pulsed a few tomatoes at a time (in the food processor because I didn't want them liquified, just diced).
5. Add tomatoes, dry spices and lime juice to the bowl and mix with a large spoon. Taste so you can add more spices if necessary.



About the Author

Renae Russell is "a midwest girl who is discovering life through quilting, sewing, cooking, gardening, organization, reading, teaching and now through blogging." She is the creator of *Through the Ivy Covered Window* (www.throughtheivycoveredwindow.blog).

Getting Crafty WINTER CRAFT FOR KIDS

4-Step DIY Snowman Ornament

Step One:

You'll need white and colored paper, scissors, glue, string and markers. Start by cutting a circle out of a piece of white paper.



Step Two:

Cut your circle into a spiral. Starting at the outside edge, cut a strip following the curve of the circle until you reach the center.



Step Three:

Using different colored paper, cut out the shape of a snowman's hat, apply glue to the back and attach to the smallest part of your spiral.



Step Four:

Next, draw a friendly face (don't forget the carrot nose!), poke a hole through the hat, add some string and hang from your tree!



Here at Weed Man, our number one goal is ensuring that your lawn is healthy, lush, green and weed-free all season long. If you ever have any questions about your lawn, visit our online Resource Centre at www.weedmanusa.com or let us know and we will have a Weed Man technician come out to your property as soon as possible.

With the lawn care season soon coming to an end, we want to thank all our customers for trusting us with their lawn for another year. We appreciate the opportunity to work with so many homeowners and we can't wait to continue working together for seasons to come!

Pre-Pay for 2019 & Save

The season is winding down, but spring will be here before we know it! Remember, you can pre-pay for your 2019 Weed Man services to receive a discount on your total program price! Contact your local Weed Man office today to take advantage of this early-bird offer today!

A Friendly Reminder: Our Referral Program

At Weed Man, we rely on referrals to help grow our business and that's where you come into play! If you refer a friend, neighbor or family member who signs up for a full program, you will receive a discount on your Weed Man lawn care services. To refer a friend, visit us online at weedmanusa.com/contact-us and click on the "Refer-a-Friend" tab to fill out the simple two-line form! You can also refer someone by contacting your local office and providing them with the necessary information.

We appreciate you taking the time to spread the word and thank you for trusting Weed Man with your lawn care needs!

THE WEED MAN FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITY

Is It Time for a Change?

Truly rewarding career opportunities come around once in a lifetime. Are you ready to seize yours?

What started in 1970 as a one-man lawn care company out of the back of a pickup truck has expanded to encompass an award-winning network of locally-owned and operated franchises, growing at an average rate of 15-20% annually. But if steady, double-digit growth doesn't pique your interest, did you know Weed Man was named One of the Best Franchises to Buy by *Forbes* magazine?!

Is Weed Man Right for You?

Whether you're an entrepreneur looking for an affordable investment, a business owner looking to diversify, or simply eager to become your own boss, Weed Man can help you achieve your career aspirations. We've got the systems, training, and years of expertise needed to set you up for success.

Why wait? [Request a consultation](#) or visit our virtual brochure today!

