

# LAWN & LEISURE



## Spring DIY INSPO FOR ALL

**R**eady to give your yard a facelift? For projects big and small, consider a do-it-yourself approach this year. While labor intensive, DIY can be both fun and rewarding. You'll need the right tools and supplies, a good team (if required), and a little bit of time on your side. Read on below for a list of reno ideas from Weed Man Lawn Care.

### The **BEGINNER**

If you're new to the DIY game, consider taking on a smaller scale project at first. Weed Man recommends trying one of the following:

#### **Planter Boxes**

Heavy-duty planters may look fantastic, but they often come at a premium. This year, make your own for a fraction of the cost. All you'll need is 5 pieces of wood, pre-cut to the appropriate sizes (sides and bottom). With the help of a partner, assemble the panels together – don't forget the base! – and fasten with nails or wood glue. Stain the wood for a more finished look.

#### **Sandbox**

An outdoor sandbox can provide kids with hours upon hours of fun and enjoyment. The location

of the sandbox is often determined by where you have space available. As an example, an 8' x 8' frame requires 64 sq. ft. of yard. You may be pleased to have less lawn to mow, but if you can't spare the space, work with a smaller sandbox in the area that you have. Keep in mind that an 8' x 8' sandbox requires 32 cu. ft. of sand, or roughly 64 50-lb. bags. If this sounds like too much, you can easily reduce the dimensions. Weed Man suggests wooden slats for the bottom of the box and 2 inch-thick lumber for the sides/borders.

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Use a saw to cut your pieces to the appropriate lengths. Nail or screw all pieces together and fill the final frame with sand.

### The DIY DABBLER

If you've taken a stab at a DIY project or two in the past, then the following backyard addition may be more up your alley:

#### Fire Pit

Professionally installed outdoor fire pits can be pricey, so why not make one yourself? Purchase stone or cast concrete blocks from your local home store. You'll want to make sure that the materials you select are flat on the top and thus good for stacking. Blocks with angled sides will help you create a circular structure for your fire pit. You'll also need masonry glue, mortar, a steel ring and capstone. Dig a 12-inch trench lined with gravel up to about the 6-inch mark. Be sure to keep the base of the wall buried below ground within the remaining six inches of trench – this will allow for healthy drainage. Glue stones or bricks together and build up. Situate your fire pit low to the ground, with walls no more than a foot high above the soil's surface. Line the interior of the pit with a steel ring and finish off the design with beautiful capstones.

### The Seasoned PRO

If you've taken on large-scale lawn and landscape projects in the past, then we suggest taking your expertise to the next level by building your own deck or patio. Are you ready for the challenge?

#### Deck/Patio

Building a deck or patio is no easy feat. It requires intensive planning (complete with blueprints), a wide range of materials, and the desire to invest sweat equity into your property. On the plus side, customizing your own backyard gathering space allows you to break free from any cookie-cutter models. You'll be able to bring your personalized vision to life and transform your outdoor space accordingly. Depending on which route you decide to take, you'll need to visit your local hardware store and/or stone distributor for supplies.

There's nothing quite like the feeling of accomplishing a home project that's been lingering on your "to do" list, especially when you get the opportunity to work with your hands. Take on that yard renovation project at long last and experience just how much fun a do-it-yourself project can be.



## KICKSTART YOUR Lawn

Spring is here! Unfortunately, so are brown lawns, matted down grass, and early spring turf disease. If you're ready to head outside and enjoy your lawn now, consider trying a few tricks of the trade to kick your lawn into high gear.

### WATER YOUR LAWN

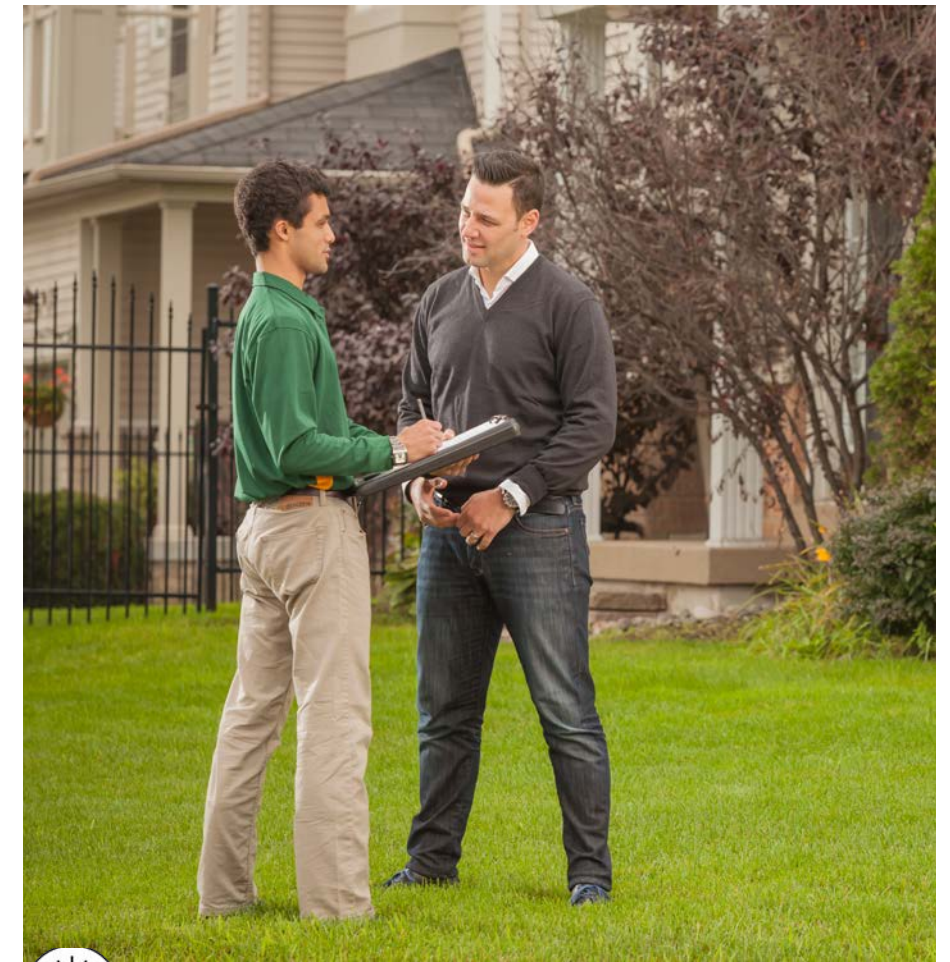
The majority of homeowners associate spring with rainy conditions. However, in many parts of the United States, it is actually quite dry at this juncture of the year. If you've noticed a lack of precipitation in your local area, monitor your lawn carefully. The old screwdriver trick usually gets the job done. Simply take a traditional screwdriver and push it into the surface of your lawn. If it meets little resistance, your lawn has adequate moisture. If the screwdriver meets hardened soil and is difficult to push in, more water is needed.

### FERTILIZE

When your body needs energy after a good night's sleep, what do you usually do? Eat, of course! And a good, nutrient-rich meal is exactly what your lawn needs in these early days of spring. Weed Man's slow release, granular fertilizer feeds the lawn slowly – as it needs it – and provides turf with the tools it needs to green up quickly and healthily this season. Fertilized lawns recover far better and faster than untreated lawns.

Your [Customer Portal](#) allows you to access your Weed Man account at any time of the day or night. You'll have the option of scheduling a visit, paying a bill, or browsing through the available lawn care options in your area...all with the click of a mouse! Click the button below to get started.

Online Customer Account Login



When you hire Weed Man as your lawn care provider, we become a partner in understanding what your lawn care requirements are. Our technicians are trained to treat your lawn as if it were their own!

### RAKE IT OUT

Sometimes all a dull, lifeless lawn needs is a thorough raking. Raking the lawn helps break up the thatch layer, which often harbors disease fungi and makes it difficult for grass plants to breathe. Try to be gentle, though – your lawn has had a tough winter and isn't in top form just yet.

### LET IT BREATHE

Although you may be waiting for those leftover leaves from last fall to break up and give your lawn an added boost of nutrients, the fact of the matter is they may be smothering your grass and doing more harm than good. To avoid a slower-than-usual green up this spring, remove any unnecessary items from the lawn to allow for better light penetration and air flow. You'll see a big difference in turf quality after a few days of sunshine.

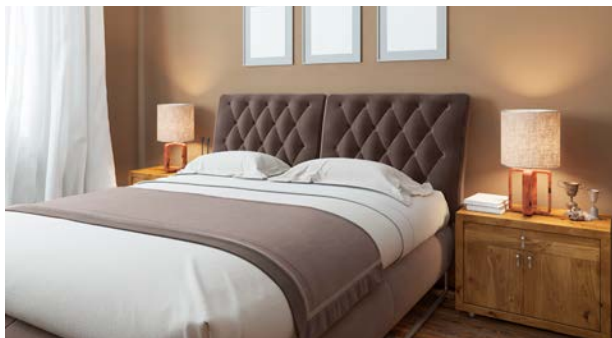
### BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU TREAD

One of the joys of outdoor season is walking barefoot on the lawn. In these early weeks of spring, however, the ground tends to be soggy and wet. Footprints can often cause the lawn to fall flat in many areas, slowing down growth and green up even further. Avoid walking on the lawn until everything dries up a bit.

After a tough winter, your lawn will need a bit of extra care this spring. Start early and get your lawn growing in greener and thicker than ever before.

Visit [www.weedmanusa.com](http://www.weedmanusa.com) today for more information regarding your spring lawn care needs.





# THE BEST Earth TONES FOR YOUR HOME



Earth tones have become increasingly popular over the last decade, and it's easy to see why! The outdoor world is filled with so much beauty and color that homeowners can't help but want to bring the outside in. Whether you're looking to update a paint color, accessorize, purchase a new piece of furniture, or simply refurbish an item you already have, here are some of the warmest hues Weed Man recommends this year:

**Brown.** If you're looking for rich, look no further. In its many shades, brown brings a sense of warmth to the home without being overly dark. Perfect for couches, patio furniture and indoor tables.



**Orange.** Want an earth tone that's a little bit peppier? Orange might just do the trick. If you're looking to harness the natural environment, why not opt for the color of a traditional sunset? You can also stick to shades that are more subdued but that still cast a warm glow. Because of its ability to overpower other colors in a room, Weed Man recommends using orange in small doses. Consider curtains, vases, and lamps for a burst of brightness.

**Yellow.** Show off your sunny personality with a dash of yellow. Contrary to popular belief, yellow doesn't have to mean eccentric (or neon!). In fact, with the right shade, it can make your favorite hangout space downright cozy.



**Forest Green.** Classy and traditional, forest green will add an element of calm to any room. Perfect for a powder room, games room, or home office. Accent with lighter colors to create a sense of balance in your décor.

**Sage Green.** Sage is so popular right now. It works as a paint color in just about any room, but also looks terrific on throw pillows, lamp shades, towels, and area rugs. Pair with comfy, cream-colored furniture to create a light and airy ambience.



**Smoky Gray.** Reminiscent of a cloudy day, there's no color that's more "in" right now than gray. It's incredibly versatile and can work in a variety of indoor rooms and outdoor spaces. Consider smoky gray wicker furniture for your patio – perfect for entertaining!

**Rich Blue(s).** When it comes to blue, there really isn't a "one size fits all" hue that Weed Man recommends. Instead, it's all about what works best for your personality and your living space. Sky blue has a calming effect, whereas darker shades can be quite cozy. Use a wide range of blues in a single space for a quirky yet stylish finish.

# spring cleaning

combine work & play as you gear up for the upcoming season | our top 7 tips

## make it less of a chore this year

Warmer weather is on the horizon! Which means that spring cleaning won't be too far behind. If the thought of getting your yard ready for outdoor season makes you cringe, you're not alone. For many homeowners, pre-season yard work can be an exhausting prospect, zapping the enjoyment right out of spring.

But spring cleaning doesn't have to be a chore. In some cases, prepping your yard for the season ahead can even be (dare we say it?) fun. With Weed Man's new Top 7 list, you'll be able to combine work and play as you gear up for the season ahead.

- ✓ **work as a team** All too often, one member of the household will try to take on a project that is simply not meant for a single person. In addition to speeding up the spring cleaning process, teamwork makes a formerly groan-worthy chore more enjoyable by encouraging laughter and communication. You can even indulge in some healthy competition – the person to bag the most sticks and leaves wins!
- ✓ **pick the right day** Spring conditions are highly unpredictable in most parts of the country, and rainy, cold weather can throw a wrench in your clean-up plans. Don't feel as though you have to tackle the backyard on a certain day; give yourself some leeway in the event of inclement weather. Lifting, hauling, raking, and organizing are tough enough without the added stress of miserable conditions. Wait for a warm, sunny day that will make you glad you're outside.
- ✓ **create incentives** When it comes to spring cleaning, motivation is half the battle. Give yourself (and your family) an incentive to get the job done. Ice cream usually does the trick!
- ✓ **split it up** Don't feel pressured to finish all of your spring cleaning in one day. Consider splitting up your to do list – half one day, half another. One of the biggest reasons homeowners dread the annual spring clean-up is simply because it feels like there is too much to get done. Take it slow and don't allow yourself to get overwhelmed.
- ✓ **add a little music** Music makes everything better! Fire up your iPod and have some fun as you whip your yard into tip top shape.
- ✓ **celebrate your triumphs** Spring cleaning is hard work! If you finally got rid of that old shed that's been cluttering up your yard for years, be proud of your accomplishments (and possibly treat yourself to a nice backyard accessory as a reward).
- ✓ **make a major change** Spring cleaning is often the least liked chore on a homeowner's to do list. Why? Simply because all of that hard work only amounts to the yard looking very much like it did in previous years. Weed Man recommends making at least one big change every season. Dig a new garden, build a deck or a patio, or install a hammock. The sky's the limit!





# drool-worthy southwest BBQ chicken

It's barbecue season! As a Weed Man customer, what better way to enjoy your lush, green lawn than with an outdoor meal? Be careful, though – this mouth-watering Southwest chicken will have the whole neighborhood over the moment it touches the grill.



serve in miniature cast-iron skillets, accompanied by grilled bell peppers and onions to give it a homey, rustic look!

## What You'll Need:

- 1 cup ketchup
- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ¼ cup strong black coffee
- 3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 to 2 tablespoons pure ground hot chili
- 1 tablespoon dark brown sugar, packed
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 3 to 4 pounds chicken, cut into serving pieces

## Preparation:

1. In a 2-quart saucepan, combine all the ingredients and all the sauce to simmer, uncovered over medium heat for 10 to 15 minutes. Set aside until you are ready to barbecue.
2. When the barbecue is ready, position the rack 5 inches above the heat source. Place the chicken on the hot rack, skin side down. When seared, turn and grill the pieces bone side down, until light golden.
3. Remove the chicken from the grill and cover the grill with a layer of heavy-duty aluminum foil. Puncture the foil to make plenty of ventilation holes.
4. Place the chicken on the foil, skin side down, and generously spoon on the barbecue sauce. Grill until the sauce is set. Then turn the pieces over, sauce the skin side and grill bone side down.
5. Continue saucing and turning until all the pieces are done (about 50-60 minutes). To test doneness, insert the tip of a sharp knife into the largest piece of chicken breast. If the juices run clear, it's done.

\*Makes 1 ½ cups sauce, serving 3-4 people.



pair with grilled corn on the cob, topped with grated parmesan cheese for an authentic southwest feel. talk about drool-worthy!

BE *thankful* FOR:  
THE FOOD BEFORE YOU,  
THE FAMILY & FRIENDS  
BESIDE YOU AND  
THE *healthy lawn*  
BENEATH YOU.



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# Love Your Lawn:

## A Letter from Your Local Weed Man

Dear Valued Customer,

Spring has sprung! It's likely you've started dreaming about all of the time you and your family will be spending out in the yard this season. Is your lawn as thick, green, and healthy as it could be? Want your yard to be the outdoor oasis you'd always hoped for?

If your lawn needs a bit of TLC, now is the time to take action. Depending on where you live, your lawn may have endured severe stress this winter, and you want to be sure it's as strong and healthy as possible. A lush, green lawn (that is the envy of the neighborhood) is in close reach, we promise!

Of course, our efforts can only go so far. Your cultural practices - mowing, watering, and raking - will make all the difference in the world; so please remember, this is a *partnership*.

If they haven't already, our Weed Man technicians across the country are ready to inspect your yards and ensure they are in great shape for your warm weather enjoyment. Our team will fertilize your lawn to provide it with the nutrients it needs to thrive, treat for weeds, manage insect populations and keep disease at bay. Other services are also available to keep your lawn in tip-top shape, including aeration and specialized insect and disease control programs.

Our lawn care programs work in concert to keep your lawn at its best. Each service has a purpose and a result; when combined, they will create a thicker, healthier turf. Strong turf can ward off weeds, insects and diseases. It's key to connect the dots from one service to the next!

We also rely on regular communication from our customers. We enjoy hearing from you and want to know if you have any questions about your lawn. Just pick up the phone and give us a call or, for your convenience, access your account via our interactive customer portal. This portal is your gateway to your personal Weed Man account detailing your services and payment history. You can also send us an e-mail with a question, order additional services and much more. To log-in, go to [customer.weedmanusa.com](http://customer.weedmanusa.com).

Be sure and refer us to your family, friends and neighbors. We'll provide them with the same quality service you enjoy from us!

Thank you for being a great Weed Man customer, and thank you for your continued business.

Your local Weed Man



### 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!

