



## Lawn Maintenance Tips

### ST. AUGUSTINE LAWNS

To have a healthy lawn and to keep it in good shape all year round having proper lawn maintenance done is needed. To maintain St. Augustine lawns with a dense green look, proper watering and mowing are always essential factors to be considered. If St. Augustine grass is not maintained properly it will experience problems. Listed are lawn care tips on watering and mowing which will be helpful, and can save money in the long run.

### WATERING ST. AUGUSTINE LAWNS

Proper watering practices help in proper lawn maintenance by having less thatch buildup and requiring less mowing. Watering correctly will help develop a deep root system, and make the turf less susceptible to damage from insects and stress. Amount of watering from irrigation is determined by how much rainfall occurs.

St. Augustine lawns need to receive an inch of water in the soil a week. During hot weather, watering two times a week should be sufficient. During winter months, once a week will supply enough water. During drought periods, set each zone at 45 minutes to ensure proper amount. The best time to water is in the early morning hours.

It is important to check coverage on a regular basis. Heads may become clogged, damaged, off center, and leaks in the line effect water pressure. If a lawn is not getting the right coverage and amount, dry spots can develop. During dry periods drought stress will begin to cause problems from heads being out of adjustment.

Although watering is important for good lawn maintenance many homeowners have a tendency to over-water. This is common practice because of the thought, "give it more water", as the solution to lawn problems. Too much water can be damaging to St. Augustine lawns and is often the cause of the problem. During the rainy season when the lawn is getting good amounts of rainfall, the sprinkler system should be turned off. Irrigation should be a supplemental source of watering St.

Augustine grass, to avoid wasting it and causing damage to the turf.

Over-watering encourages nutrient leaching, increases insect problems, causes shallow rooting, and leads to disease problems like fungus. Shallow root systems cause more stress on lawns during drought because the grass cannot get water at lower soil depths. Too much water causes excessive buildup of thatch in the lawn. Also, weeds love water and too much helps them thrive and get out of control. Too much water will make it harder for chemicals to kill weeds, the root system becomes saturated and as the weed absorbs the chemical it becomes diluted.

Proper watering is an important factor that needs to be considered in year round lawn maintenance. Not only does it conserve water, it will keep a St. Augustine lawn healthy.

### PROPER MOWING

Mowing correctly is another important factor for keeping a lawn healthy. Frequency of mowing is determined by the growth rate of St. Augustine turf grass. During the summer lawns need weekly mowing, while during the winter months it is only needed to be done every two weeks. Each time a lawn is mowed removing only about one-third of the leaf blade is required. St. Augustine grass should be mowed to a height of 2 1/2 – 3 inches only.

Mowing at lower heights will reduce drought tolerance and increases susceptibility to pest problems. Continuous low mowing can lead to weed problems. Proper mowing height helps St. Augustine grass to develop a deeper root system. Scalping from mowers causes dead spots inducing insects. Always mow with a sharp well adjusted blade to give a clean cut. Dull blades cause a ragged cut on the leaf giving the lawn a brownish look. Mowing correctly keeps a lawn looking good all the time.

Lawn maintenance done correctly helps achieve a successful growing lawn. Since a lawn is a big part of a landscape, keeping it in good shape adds to the overall appearance. Maintaining a lawn properly is done by correct watering and mowing which sometimes is taken for granted.

Woodfield

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**Third Quarter  
Assessment Reminder**

The Third Quarter Assessment of \$110 is due on July 1.

# Directory

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Treasurer ..... Bob Bloomfield  
Director ..... Jamie Gillespie

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Fay Suber

## Management and Associates

720 Booker Creek Blvd. #206, Oldsmar, FL 34677  
Office: 813-433-2018 Email: fsuber@mgmt-assoc.com

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## WOODFIELD WEBSITE

www.WoodfieldCommunity.net

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency ..... 911  
Sheriff's Office ..... (727) 582-6200

## ALLIGATOR REMOVAL

1-866-FWC-GATOR (1-866-392-4286)

## PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

www.pinellascounty.org/emergency – (727) 464-3800

## PINELLAS COUNTY INFORMATION CENTER

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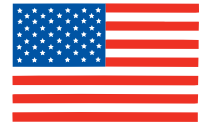
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# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

June 14

Flag Day



June 18

Father's Day

June 21

Summer Begins



July 1

Third Quarter Assessment Due (\$110)

July 4

Independence Day



July 27

Board Meeting



September 4

Labor Day

September 19

Board Meeting

# WOODFIELD VIEW

Production Manager ..... Claudia Huerta  
Director of Bus. Development/Acct. Rep. .... Ian Whiteside

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## Do you have concerns?

You may address your concerns by writing to the Board of Directors, c/o of Property Manager Fay Suber, Management and Associates, 720 Brooker Creek Blvd. #206, Oldsmar, FL 34677. You may also email [fsuber@mgmt-assoc.com](mailto:fsuber@mgmt-assoc.com).

Your concerns and comments will be reviewed on their merit and your name will be kept confidential if you so desire. Please note that anonymous letters are neither acted upon nor taken seriously.

Visit Us on the Web...

[www.WoodfieldCommunity.net](http://www.WoodfieldCommunity.net)



## Hurricane Season

Submitted by the Pinellas County Communications Department

The hurricane season lasts from June 1st to November 30th.

Now is the perfect time to complete your plans to survive a storm. This includes building your survival kit, finding your evacuation level and updating your list of important phone numbers. Here are some important phone numbers and websites for tips on how to make a survival plan, prepare your home or evacuate before a storm:



### Pinellas County Emergency Management

(727) 464-3800 | [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency)

#### Find your evacuation level:

(727) 453-3150 | [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/knowyourzone.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/knowyourzone.htm)

#### Register for special needs:

(727) 464-3800 | [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/specialneeds.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/specialneeds.htm)

Make your plans now, before a storm threatens the Tampa Bay area. Visit [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency) to learn how to make your plan should the worst happen.

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**NEWS DEADLINE:**  
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Submit Articles to: [www.hoapub.com](http://www.hoapub.com)

## Bite Back Against Mosquitoes

Just as the summer rains make the grass grow, they also provide the ideal conditions for mosquitoes to breed. Bite back against mosquitoes by following the three D's:

- Drain standing water from flower pots, bird baths, pet water bowls or other containers.
- Dress in light-colored, loose-fitting clothes, choosing long pants and shirts where practical.
- Defend yourself with an insect repellent to keep those biting pets away.

For more information, go to:

[www.pinellascounty.org/resident/mosquito\\_control.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/resident/mosquito_control.htm)  
or call **727-464-7503**.

## Benefits of a Clean Garage

To paraphrase President Kennedy, "Ask not what your HOA can do for you; ask what you can do for your HOA". Cleaning your garage is a great way to improve Woodfield's appearance and promote safety in our community. Organize the space, eliminate clutter, and throw away (or sell) items you never use. Get your vehicles out of the driveway and, more importantly, off the street. Protect them from the elements and potential thieves while alleviating traffic issues. Park them in the garage where they belong! Your vehicle AND your community will benefit.

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[www.crescentoaksgolf.com](http://www.crescentoaksgolf.com)

Contact: Lori Cahill 727-937-4653 ext 31 or [lcahill@ace-golf.com](mailto:lcahill@ace-golf.com)

## Furniture and Appliance Guidelines

Below is an outline of Furniture and Appliance Guidelines recently adopted by the Board of Directors and Design Review Committee (DRC) regarding placement of furniture and appliances on Woodfield lots. Please refer to [WoodfieldCommunity.net](http://WoodfieldCommunity.net) for a complete listing of these and other DRC architectural guidelines applicable to Woodfield homeowners.

1. Furniture of any kind (including but not limited to chairs, benches, tables, beds, hammocks, cabinets, and storage containers) is prohibited from being located on any lot, except as specified below.
2. Appliances of any kind (including but not limited to stoves, ovens, grills, smokers, fryers, fire pits, fans, space heaters, refrigerators, freezers, hot tubs, swimming pools, spas, torch lights, and insect traps) are prohibited from being located on any lot, except as specified below.
3. Furniture (including chairs, benches, and tables) may be located within the boundaries of a porch or patio adjacent to the front/main entrance of a home.
4. Furniture (including chairs, benches, tables, beds, hammocks, cabinets, and storage containers) may be located within the boundaries of a porch, patio, or lanai adjacent to the rear entrance of a home.
5. Furniture (including chairs, benches, and tables) may be located in the front yard of a lot, outside the boundaries of a porch or patio adjacent to the front/main entrance of the home, for a period of no more than 12 hours.
6. Furniture (including chairs, benches, tables, beds, hammocks, cabinets, and storage containers) may be located in the back yard of a lot, outside the boundaries of a porch, patio, or lanai adjacent to the rear entrance of the home, for a period of no more than 24 hours.
7. Appliances (including stoves, ovens, grills, smokers, fryers, fire pits, fans, space heaters, refrigerators, freezers, hot tubs, swimming pools, spas, torch lights, and insect traps) may be located within the boundaries of a porch, patio, or lanai adjacent to the rear entrance of a home.
8. Appliances (including stoves, ovens, grills, smokers, fryers, fire pits, fans, space heaters, refrigerators, freezers, hot tubs, swimming pools, spas, torch lights, and insect traps) may be located in the back yard of a lot, outside the boundaries of a porch, patio, or lanai adjacent to the rear entrance of a home, for a period of no more than 24 hours.
9. Placement and use of appliances (including stoves, ovens, grills, smokers, fryers, fire pits, fans, space heaters, refrigerators, freezers, hot tubs, swimming pools, spas, torch lights, and insect traps) must conform to all applicable governmental laws, statutes, and ordinances.
10. All furniture and appliances located as specified in these guidelines must be in "like-new" condition.



## Pinellas County Water Restrictions

Irrigation using County Water or Well for unincorporated Pinellas County.

**Frequency:** Two Days a Week, One Time per Day

**Hours:** 4:00 PM to 10:00 AM

(watering prohibited between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM)

**Addresses Ending In:** **Authorized Watering Days:**

**Even numbers 0, 2, 4, 6, 8** **Thursday and/or Sunday**

**Odd numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 9** **Wednesday and/or Saturday**

For additional details, please visit:  
<http://www.pinellascounty.org/UTILITIES/water-restrict.htm>

### Tip of the Month

**Take stock in how your mailbox looks. It's the first thing people see of your home. With a little paint, or perhaps some soap and water, the improvement can be dramatic.**



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## No Fishing

Please respect Woodfield's restriction on fishing. Some residents have chosen to impose their own priorities on the rest of the community by ignoring this important rule. There are many reasons for the "No Fishing" rule. Here are just a few:

- Alligators patrol our ponds – some as long as 8 feet. Encouraging children, especially the younger ones, to stand on the banks is irresponsible and dangerous. We've already had unfortunate incidents where gators have taken pets.
- The people who own homes on Woodfield's ponds paid substantial premiums for their properties. They are entitled to have their space, privacy, and security respected.
- Woodfield's fish are essential to the health of its ponds. They, along with all of our wildlife, should be left unmolested.
- Residents who ignore our "No Fishing" and "No Trespassing" signs encourage non-residents to do the same. Woodfield Boulevard and Forelock Road already carry more non-resident traffic than we'd like. Further, those who park their vehicles off-road damage the grass in those areas.
- Every pond in Woodfield is man-made – engineered and built as a stormwater retention basin, not as a fishing pond. They are the property of Woodfield Community Association, Inc., and not for public use.
- We are all contractually obligated to abide by all of Woodfield's rules – "No Fishing" included.

If you see someone fishing illegally in a Woodfield pond, don't hesitate to report it to law enforcement. The Pinellas County Sheriff's non-emergency number is 727-582-6200.

## Fertilize Like a Floridian

Submitted by the Pinellas County Communications Department

Summer rains wash fertilizer into our lakes and oceans, spoiling our water. That is why it is illegal in Pinellas County to fertilize your lawn during the rainy season, and it's also the reason slow-release products are required the rest of the year. Excess nutrients cause harmful algae blooms that turn the water a green or rust color which lower oxygen levels and lead to fish kills. Here are some tips on how to fertilize like a Floridian:

### June through September

- Skip the fertilizer. From June 1 to September 30 of every year, fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus cannot be applied to lawns or landscape plants according to Pinellas County Ordinance.
- Pump some iron. Use Florida-friendly yard products that contain micronutrients to green up your lawn.
- Get better dirt. Add compost or other soil amendments.
- Pick better plants. Florida-friendly landscaping needs less fertilizer, water, and overall care.

### October through May

- Twice is nice. Fertilize just twice a year, in April & October.
- Watch the weather. Rainstorms don't water in fertilizer – they wash it away.
- Skip the phosphorus. The Tampa Bay region is naturally rich in phosphorus. Only use phosphorus-based fertilizer if a soil test turns up a deficiency.
- Choose slow-release. Pinellas County law requires lawn or landscape fertilizers with nitrogen to be at least 50 percent slow-release (also called timed-release, controlled release, or slowly available) from October 1 to May 31.

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## Design Review

By Thomas Kukulski, Chairperson

Please remember that homeowners must apply for and receive written approval from the Design Review Committee (a.k.a. DRC) before making any modification or addition to the exterior of their property. All such modifications must adhere to the DRC guidelines, Woodfield's governing documents, as well as state and local codes. Failure to comply may result in fines up to \$1,000 per infraction.

- All Design Review Applications must be submitted through the management company and properly date stamped. Only date stamped applications will be acted upon. Although applications can take up to 30 days to process (as allowed by Woodfield's documents), the DRC acts on most applications in 7 to 10 days. You may hand deliver or mail your applications to Management and Associates at the address listed on the application.

- Please submit only ONE (1) project per application.
- Submit all required information (i.e. paint chips, roof tile/shingle sample, photos, site plan drawings, etc.). Incomplete applications will be returned and will not be processed, causing delay of the project.
- Often times, projects can be delayed. Please be advised when an application is near its deadline and an extension is required. Written notification must be submitted to the DRC for approval. If written notification is not submitted, the application will expire and a new application will be required before the project can commence.

- Need a permit? When in doubt, check it out! If you are making an improvement or change that requires a county permit; or a change in county right of ways or easements that are governed by the county, please call the Pinellas County Regulatory Services Group at 727-464-3404 to obtain information regarding necessary permits.

Application forms and guidelines are available online at [WoodfieldCommunity.net](http://WoodfieldCommunity.net) (click on "Design Review"). Thank you for your cooperation!

## Alligator Info

Alligators are an important part of Florida's landscape and play a valuable role in the ecology of our state's wetlands. They are predators and help keep other aquatic animal populations in balance. Generally, alligators less than four feet in length are not large enough to be dangerous unless handled. Visit [MyFWC.com/Gators](http://MyFWC.com/Gators) for more information about alligators and a better understanding of the facts and information to help ensure that people and alligators can continue to coexist.



If you need to report a nuisance alligator, please call 1-866-FWC-GATOR (1-866-392-4286). Individuals may call the toll-free number to submit complaints regarding nuisance alligators. The Florida Wildlife Commission will evaluate the complaint and determine if a licensed alligator trapper should remove the nuisance alligator.

The bait and trapping equipment is normally setup on the Association easements which border all ponds in Woodfield. The trapper is required to obtain your permission to cross your property, and subsequently obtain permission from the Association to setup the traps.

Please notify our Property Manager, Fay Suber, at 813-433-2018 after you contact the Florida Wildlife Commission. It is necessary to post signs regarding the trap as our maintenance personnel (pond maintenance, landscapers, etc.) as well as your neighbors need to be aware of the bait and traps. Thank you.

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## REAL ESTATE TODAY!

By Hugh A. Lichter, M.A. REALTOR®, Century 21 East Lake Realty

It's hot out and your windows are now shut till the Fall with the air on and you are bored of your decor! So, what can you do to spruce things up for less than \$100?

Glad you asked! And there is no need to spend thousands like you see on the home improvement reality shows!

First, since we are now in the electronic age, turn a closet into a Home Office and add an extra room to your home! Just unhinge the closet door, remove the closet's hanging rod(s) and replace them with shelves. A deep shelf should be used for the actual desktop and place 2 shallow shelves above for storage.

**What you need:** After measuring the closet's interior, get one 20" deep shelf for the desk surface, and two 12" deep shelves for above. They can cut ¾ inch thick wood for you at any home improvement place. Just paint or stain them, get some metal standards, and shelf brackets.

Next, add a stained glass window to your bath! Stained glass makes any bathroom look elegant. If you can't find a window to fit perfectly, you can easily hang one from chains in front of the existing window.

**What you need:** eBay store Bell Antique Mall has Art Deco products for under \$80 including shipping.

Now, add detail and dimension to a bedroom! Pump up the color and detail in your bedroom (or any other room) by installing a chair rail. Then, paint the wall below a soothing color. This project is an easy and inexpensive way to improve your home.

**What you need:** Enough MDF moldings to wrap the walls of an 8-by-10-foot room and some paint, for less than \$100 per room!

Go ahead and boost your windows! Did you know you can

make your windows look even bigger than they actually are? Use hanging drapes that go up to ceiling height to upsize small windows.

**What you need:** One pair of 108-inch panel drapes in an accent color, about \$70 per window at JC Penny's or other home store.

Install a "Doorway Display" above any door! Create a unique look by installing a shelf above any doorway and paint it to match the trim or with an accent color. Add a touch of flair by displaying pottery or other types of décor on the shelf.

**What you need:** After measuring from outside edge to outside edge of the door and trim, get a 1x6 in that length, which they will cut for you at any home improvement stor. While there, get two 7-inch brackets. Then, you just paint, and all for about \$32 per door.

Easily install a wall-mount bedside table! You can easily de-clutter a bedroom by installing wall-mounted end tables on either side of your bed, using wood corbels as brackets, with a marble or ceramic tile on top.

**What you need:** Two 6-7 inch oak Legacy hand-carved corbels, about \$80 online at Van Dykes Restorers. Then go to Floor and Décor and pick out a 7" or 8" by 16" marble or ceramic tile to place on top. Just use some adhesive like Gorilla tape to hold the shelf on the corbels, and all for less than \$100!

**Remember:** If you are even thinking of selling, you owe it to yourself to have a conversation with a real estate professional. We can give you sound advice and good, solid local market info that will greatly assist you. And, if you or someone you know is even thinking of buying, a real estate professional is best able to go over price, payment, location, and value information for this very large decision.

I would be happy to be that real estate professional for you, your friends, and your family!



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## Making The Most Of A Small Bedroom

By Sally Giar

Decorating a small bedroom might seem challenging, but there are so many simple ways to make the space equally functional and stylish.

First, make sure you stick to a strict color palette. Decorating with too many hues will make the room look more cramped and cluttered than it actually is.

Letting as much light in as possible is another simple way to open up the space. Dress the windows with sheer draperies instead of dark curtains.

And don't just decorate your walls with artwork. Consider hanging multiple large mirrors. It creates the illusion that there's double the amount of space.

How do you get away with storing your things with minimal space? A floor-to-ceiling fitted storage unit, that's how! Not only is it extremely functional, but it adds a hint of character and personalization to your room.

Freeing up the floor space in a small bedroom is key, so do it any chance you get. Take an innovative approach to your furniture, such as a hanging night stand or set of floating shelves. Consider a daybed with a pullout trundle.

See, making the most of a small bedroom is easy! If you're ready to free up the space in your small bedroom, get in touch with us today.



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## Brooker Creek Preserve – “Our Wildest Place”

Woodfield is fortunate to have Brooker Creek Preserve as its next door neighbor. The Preserve, at approximately 8,700 acres, is the largest natural area in Pinellas County. It consists primarily of forested wetlands and pine flatwoods. Bordered by dense urban development, the Preserve provides both a unique refuge for native flora and fauna as well as an opportunity for area residents to explore the natural beauty of wild Florida. The Preserve also serves to protect a significant portion of the Brooker Creek Watershed. A complex of hiking and equestrian trails provide visitors an opportunity to explore the Preserve's many ecosystems. ADMISSION IS FREE (donations welcome).

## Street Light Outages

It's quick and easy to report a street light outage online at [www.progress-energy.com](http://www.progress-energy.com). Click on the Report an Outage link, then follow the prompts. It's quicker than waiting on the phone for a representative as long as you have the pole number. The repair is usually handled within a few days. Or, if you prefer to phone, please call Duke Energy Florida's Customer Service at 727-443-2641. NOTE: Each pole has a metal strip (approximately eye height) with the pole number embossed on the strip. Be sure to have the pole number when you call or go online.



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# Small-space gardens: Easy tips for homegrown flavors

by [www.BrandPoint.com](http://www.BrandPoint.com)



(BPT) - The new growing season is upon us. You don't have to be an experienced gardener to enjoy the many benefits of the season, nor do you need large swaths of land and sprawling acreage to grow your favorite greens. In fact, beautiful outdoor spaces - rich with colorful blooms and hearty edibles - can be created in nearly any space, including patios and balconies.

"Small-space gardening is the fastest-growing area in gardening and is becoming increasingly important to individuals who are interested in starting a garden but don't have a lot of space," says Tom Batt, a horticulturist and sales associate with Burpee Gardening Products and a consultant for Tractor Supply Company. "Ultimately, people are looking to have more control over what goes into their family meals and there's no better way to know than by harvesting food from your own garden."

Small-space gardening is all about getting creative and having fun. So whether you're attempting to create an eye-catching outdoor oasis or produce delicious food for cooking, the most effective way to learn is by simply digging in.

To help you get started, the experts at Tractor Supply Company compiled a list of tips on how to take a confined area and turn it into a bountiful garden.

## Ready, set, prep

As with most new endeavors, preparation is key. First, determine how much space you'll be allocating and whether or not the area has access to adequate sunlight. According to Batt, a successful garden should receive at least eight hours of sunlight per day. It's also important to make sure your planters are equipped with a sufficient drainage system. A hole at the bottom of your containers will help prevent oversaturation while still allowing water to permeate the soil. It will also ensure adequate airflow reaches the roots.

## Commit to cultivating

Now that you've decided on an area, it's important to remember that a garden - regardless of its size - requires time, attention and effort. It isn't just planting then vacating. With that in mind, try to be realistic about how much time you're willing to put forth. Batt suggests reserving an hour over the weekend for things like weeding and watering.

When it comes to plant hydration, it's better to water deeply and thoroughly on a seldom basis than water too little on a regular basis. That being said, plants in containers tend to dry out more quickly than plants in the ground and will often require more water, especially during warmer months. A good rule of thumb is to soak plants until you notice water coming through the drainage holes. But remember plants absorb water through their roots and lose water through their leaves, so when watering try to avoid the foliage.

## Start simple

It's almost time to plant those first few seeds, but you're not entirely sure what to grow. Consider starting with simple, cool-season crops like cabbage, carrots and radishes. Often, according to Batt, newer gardeners attempt to grow popular products like peppers, but what they don't know is that in order to thrive, those need to be started indoors.

Another great option for beginners is herbs, which are inexpensive, require nothing larger than a 6-8-inch container, and only take three to four weeks to yield results.

"Herb gardens involve very little space and provide gardeners with a harvestable product that's relatively easy to cultivate," Batt says. "It's also a fantastic way to grow a wide variety of plants in one fell swoop."

## Time to eat

It's vital to know what you've planted and how long it should stay in the ground. Carrots, for instance, will harvest in about 65 to 70 days and, according to Batt, will show signs of wilting when they're ready to be eaten.

Try to make a trip out to the garden every day to see what has ripened or is starting to flower. Trim back herbs, such as chives and basil, as soon as they start to flower. This will help plants continue to put energy into growth and production.

Checking on your garden daily also allows you to intervene at the first sign of trouble.

When it comes to small-space gardening, a little goes a long way. To give you an idea, a 10-foot by 12-foot garden has the capacity to feed a family of three for the entire summer simply by rotating the crops.

Tractor Supply Company hosts a variety of gardening events throughout the year, featuring expert advice and special products, all geared toward getting families out from under the roof and inside the garden. The rural lifestyle store carries all the supplies a family needs to get started, including mulch and soil, live plants, regular and organic seeds, pest control and garden tools.

Check with your local Tractor Supply store for details on upcoming gardening events.

For more expert advice on lawn and garden care, visit Tractor Supply's Know How Central, and for homegrown inspiration for your garden, visit Tractor Supply's Pinterest page.

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This is another friendly reminder about parking cars in the street and parking over sidewalks. Article IX, Section 5 of Woodfield's Covenants and Restrictions limits parking and storage of vehicles to garages and driveways.

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7			5			2		
		9			6		8	
	5				3			8
1				2		7		
		6	4					9
8					2		4	
		7		9		1		
	3		6					9

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# Smart Ideas For Supporting Your Child's Education In 2017 And Beyond

by [www.BrandPoint.com](http://www.BrandPoint.com)

(BPT) - The education children receive today will help them throughout their lives. School is the fundamental component of the learning process, but education doesn't stop when kids arrive back home at the end of the day.

"Education and family go hand in hand," says Ellen Marks, curriculum director of Bricks 4 Kidz, an award-winning summer camp and after-school program. "Parents who take an active role by supporting classroom learning will not only see their kids' education blossom, but their relationship with them, too."

The start of the new year is the ideal time to evaluate what you're doing right and where you could improve in regards to supporting your child's education. Marks offers these smart ideas guaranteed to help you keep this resolution in 2017 and beyond:

**Connections to real life:** One of the best ways to help kids understand classroom lessons is to connect the material to everyday experiences. Practice fractions while cooking. Chat about biology as birds fly by the window. Learning moments are all around, you just have to point them out.

**Daily conversations:** With a fun, no-pressure approach, go over what your children learned in school. If they don't want to talk right after school, wait until later. During or after dinner may allow enough transition time so you'll find they'll open up more.

**Positive attitude:** Kids will mirror your attitude toward your work as well as how you view their school, homework and teachers. Stay positive, respectful and model resilience during difficult times; you'll find they'll do the same.

**Enriching activities:** Select fun after-school activities that emphasize cognitive development while building self-esteem. For example, Bricks 4 Kidz uses relatable tools like LEGO Bricks to teach science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills. Learn more at [www.bricks4kidz.com](http://www.bricks4kidz.com) and sign up for an After School class.

**The parent-teacher relationship:** Sending check-in emails, attending conferences and volunteering are ways to build strong relationships with teachers. Be proactive about asking where your child excels and what areas they may need additional help.

**Homework help:** Good study habits are essential to excelling at school. Create a comfortable homework space with adequate supplies and few distractions. What's more, be an active partner in your child's homework and assist when needed with gentle guidance and encouragement.

**Reading buddies:** Reading together can instill a lifelong love of literature. Try reading the same books your child is assigned in school so you can foster a good discussion about characters and storylines. When you both finish the book, rent the film version and plan a movie night.

**Active learning opportunities:** Reading, writing and solving math problems are passive learning activities. At home, encourage active learning where your child builds models, creates art projects and can ask questions. It's amazing to watch their minds work and see what they create.

**Health and wellness:** A child must first be well before they can effectively learn. Make sure kids stay fueled with a variety of healthy foods. Next, ensure they get a good night's sleep. Full, well-rested kids are always ready and eager to learn.

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## Independence Day: America's Birthday

by [www.MyHOA.com](http://www.MyHOA.com)



Summertime: the smell of the barbecue, the roar of holiday crowds at events throughout the land, family, picnics and the beach. It's America's annual birthday party and everyone is invited.

### History of Independence Day

Schoolchildren in America learn the basic history of the events surrounding the Fourth of July, but the details of this monumental occasion in American history somehow fall through the cracks.

Although July 4th is celebrated as America's official split from Britain's rule and the beginning of the American Revolution, the actual series of events show that the process took far longer than a single day. The original resolution was introduced by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia on June 7, 1776, and called for the Continental Congress to declare the United States free from British rule. Three days later a committee headed by Thomas Jefferson was appointed to prepare an appropriate writing for the occasion.

The document that we know as the Declaration of Independence was adopted by Congress on July 4th although the resolution that led to the writing of the Declaration was actually approved two days earlier.

All of this had occurred with some of the delegates to the Congress not even present; New York, for example, did not even vote on the resolution until July 9th.

Even more interesting is the fact that not a single signature was appended to the Declaration on July 4th. While most of the fifty-six names were in place by early August, one signer, Thomas McKean, did not actually sign the Declaration until 1781.

Nevertheless, July 4th was the day singled out to mark the event of the United States establishing itself as a nation.

Only four American holidays are still celebrated on their proper calendar days: Halloween, Christmas, New Year's and Independence Day. Of all the secular holidays, the Fourth of July is the only one whose celebration date resists change. Even in more provincial times, suggestions to alter the day of the festival to the preceding Saturday or the following Monday when July 4th fell on Sunday were protested.

The feeling about the sanctity of America's Independence day was best expressed in a quotation from the Virginia Gazette on July 18th, 1777: "Thus may the 4th of July, that glorious and ever memorable day, be celebrated through America, by the sons of freedom, from age to age till time shall be no more. Amen and Amen."

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