



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
LANDSCAPE  
PROFESSIONALS

**HOMEOWNER'S**  
*Lawn & Landscape*  
**TOOLKIT**

# You're a proud homeowner with a beautiful backyard!

But, do you have the know-how to maintain your lawn and landscape? As the voice of more than 1 million experts, the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) is here to help with pro tips and tricks.

For more information or to hire a professional, visit [LoveYourLandscape.org](https://www.LoveYourLandscape.org)

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# 01.

# LAWN CARE 101

## LUSH LAWNS

### Do

- Mow lawn to 2 – 3½ inches
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn
- Mow with sharp blades for a clean cut

### Don't

- Cut more than 1/3 of the grass blade height
- Mow with debris on your lawn
- Mow when the grass is wet

## patchy lawn *FIXES*



### soil testing »

The root of your problem could be poor soil. Tests can identify missing nutrients and analyze the proper pH level of your soil to help your yard thrive.



### weeding »

Weeds can dominate lawns, taking nutrients from grasses and other plants. Work with a professional to apply pre-emergent and post-emergent fertilizers to prevent weed growth.



### seeding or sodding »

Seeding establishes new grass while laying sod adds mature grass. Water regularly and fertilize to ensure the grass continues to grow.

\*Proper lawn care techniques can vary by region, climate and type of grass. For best results, seek advice from a local lawn care professional.

# 02.

*Give your landscape a glow-up you'll want to share with the world!*



## is your landscape *INSTA-WORTHY?*

### container gardens

Add flowers and greenery or fruits and vegetables to unique pots for the perfect container garden.

### low maintenance plants

Plants native to your region allow you to spruce up your yard while requiring less water use and general maintenance.

### pruning & mulching

Adding mulch around trees and in garden beds not only provides a clean and vibrant look, but also helps preserve and protect your plants.

# 03.

# ultimate SEASONAL CHECKLIST

Work with a local professional to complete these seasonal tasks

## Spring

- Test your soil
- Fertilize your lawn, trees and shrubs
- Control weeds before they invade
- Apply an inch-thick layer of mulch to garden beds and trees
- Inspect your irrigation system



- Aerate your lawn to improve oxygen flow
- Remove any weeds
- Mow your grass regularly
- Water your plants and grass for healthy growth
- Seed and sod early to promote new growth

## Fall

- Seed and fertilize to promote future growth
- Keep your grass at 2 – 2½ inches tall
- Give trees and shrubs a final deep watering
- Prune plants
- Shut off water lines to prevent freezing



- Rake leaves and remove debris
- Aerate and fertilize lawn
- Apply mulch to protect trees, plants and shrubs
- Prune plants
- Take precautions against wind and cold by wrapping fragile plants in burlap

## Summer



- Water your plants and grass for healthy growth
- Mow your grass regularly
- Fertilize your lawn, trees and shrubs
- Control weeds before they invade
- Apply an inch-thick layer of mulch to garden beds and trees
- Inspect your irrigation system



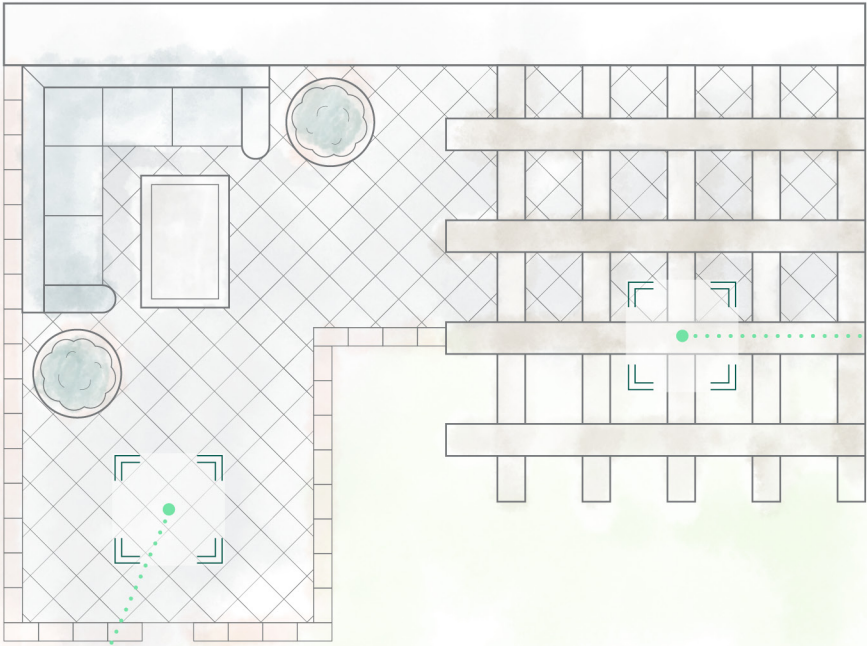
## Winter

\* The timing for landscape and lawn care tasks can vary by region and climate. For best results, seek advice from a local landscape professional.

# 04.

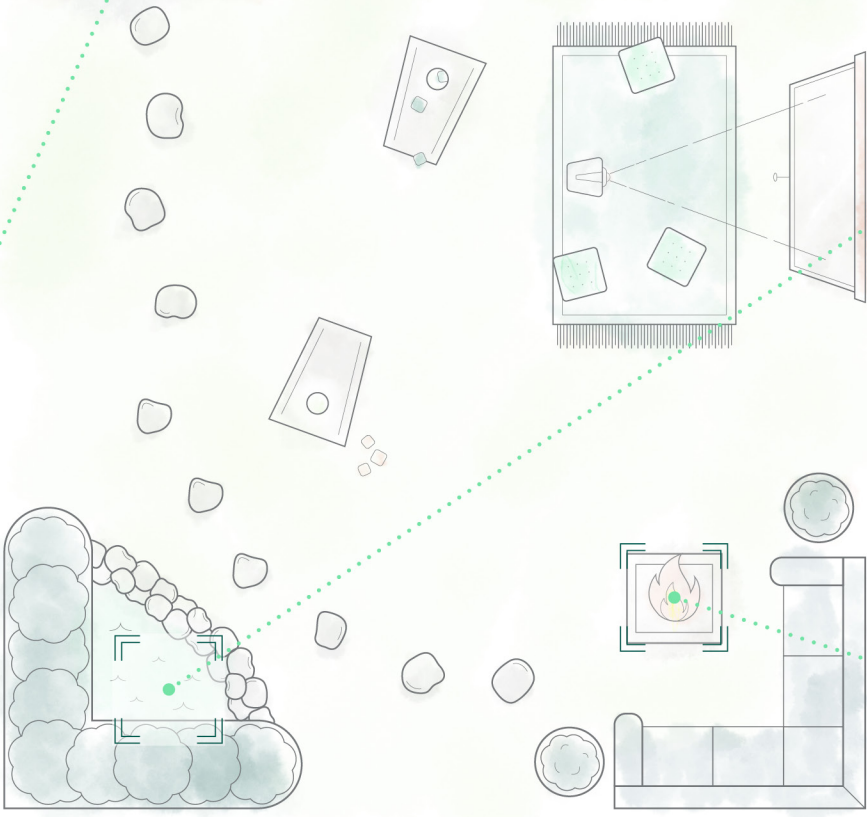
## backyard *PARTY* *CENTRAL*

Work with a professional to create the perfect backyard entertaining space with these hardscaping features



### DECKS

- Elevated from the ground to provide a great view of your yard
- Often made of wood but synthetic materials offer a low maintenance option



### WATER

- Fountains and ponds create a luxurious and soothing environment
- Water features add a natural ambiance to your outdoor space



### PATIOS

- Complements the natural layout and features of your backyard
- Often made of materials such as paver stones, bricks or concrete



### FIRE

- Adds warmth and cozy comfort to your outdoor entertaining space
- Varieties include wood burning or natural gas firepits and fireplaces

05.

# tech nerd PARADISE



*Geek out while enjoying your backyard! Let nature and tech collide when maintaining and entertaining in your yard.*



**Robotic mowers** will do the work for you, so you don't have to lift a finger.



**Portable projectors, blow-up screens or weather-proof televisions** are perfect for movie nights or backyard tailgates.



**Smart irrigation systems** help the environment and your wallet. Don't let your water go to waste!



**Weatherproof speakers and sound systems** add a new meaning to nature sounds.