

Your Yard

Could Your Yard Use An Intervention?

(NAPSA)—Are you struggling with a problem lawn and yard? Are the weeds growing but the grass isn't? Maybe you're embarrassed by patchy grass and an overgrown landscape. If so, it may be time for a yard care intervention, and a chance to grow your confidence and a better-looking lawn and landscape.

This spring and summer, the Briggs & Stratton Yard Doctor will roll up his sleeves and help homeowners confront their yard care demons, bringing three of America's neediest yards back into their neighborhoods' good graces. Yard Doctor Trey Rogers and his team will spend a day providing advice and hands-on help to transform the winning homeowners' yards into points of pride.

In addition to a yard makeover, the winners will receive new lawn care equipment and \$1,500 in landscape cash. To enter, visit www.yardsmartsintervention.com. Homeowners can apply for an intervention for themselves or (with permission) they can call out a neighbor, family member or friend in need of help. Each "application" should explain the yard care problems faced and why an intervention is needed, using either a short video or up to four photos to show the yard.

One yard will be selected each month from May through July by online voting. Runners-up each month receive cool Yard Smarts gear and a signed copy of the Yard Doctor's book on growing the perfect lawn.

Rogers, who has helped homeowners across the country bring their yards back under control, has the following tips:

- **Eliminate yard clutter.** Pick up and put away kids' bicy-



If your lawn or yard could use some TLC, there's hope and help from the Yard Doctor.

cles, balls, lawn furniture, garbage cans and other clutter.

- **Mow correctly for a lush lawn.** When you mow, cut only one-third of the height of the lawn to encourage strong roots. Cutting too short stresses the lawn, creating an environment ideal for weed growth and disease.

- **Be sure to trim.** Mowing your lawn without trimming is like getting half a haircut. String trim around flowerbeds, sidewalks and decks.

- **Eliminate overgrowth.** Trim back or replace overgrown bushes and trees that overwhelm the front of your house.

- **Add a focal point.** Every home should have a focal point, such as a front door painted in a contrasting color to the home or a landscape feature, such as a beautiful tree, flowerbed or curving pathway to your door.

The intervention is sponsored by Briggs & Stratton, the largest maker of gasoline engines for a variety of yard care equipment. The company's educational website, www.yardsmarts.com, provides expert advice and information on topics related to yard care and yard care equipment.