

# YOUR LAWN



## Make the Grass Look Greener On Your Side Of The Fence Tips For A Greener Lawn And Healthier Garden

(NAPSA)—Green grass, barbecues, fresh vegetables...crabgrass, lawn mowing and plant-eating insects. Like most things in life, the pleasures of your yard are matched by some thorny inconveniences.

“But with a little preparation,” said Doug Keiser, lawn and garden vice president and divisional merchandise manager of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., “gardeners can root out some common yard problems.”

Keiser provides the following tips to help lawn and gardens look their greenest:

- Visit Wal-Mart’s online Garden Center at [www.walmart.com/garden](http://www.walmart.com/garden) to learn your planting zone and the recommended plants for each season. The Center will also offer you a list of monthly to-dos based on your zone.

- Avoid costly repairs down the road by keeping your lawn mower in top condition.

- Before the first mowing of the year, rake your lawn to remove dead leaves and other debris. Then, the first time you mow, set your mower blade below its normal height. This will remove much of the top-growth and expose more of your lawn to direct sunlight, promoting thickness and richening color.

- Lawns should be fertilized several times over the spring and summer, and it’s important to fertilize early. If crabgrass is a prob-



lem, this first “feeding” should include a crabgrass fighter.

- One of the pleasures of the outdoors is raising fresh vegetables in your backyard garden. If you’re starting a garden, be sure to select a spot that gets at least six hours of sunshine a day, and preferably more.

- Mulching the vegetable garden can keep weeds to a minimum, but when they do appear, the best way to remove them is by hand pulling. Be careful not to disturb your vegetables’ roots when removing weeds. To deter pests and disease from damaging your garden produce, consider spraying with a multi-purpose garden protector.

For more information or to research the correct home or garden plant, visit the online Garden Center at [www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com) or consult a local Wal-Mart Store Garden Center guru.