

How to select the right lawn mower

(NC)—Mowing may seem like a chore, but with the right equipment you can get a manicured lawn without too much effort. Whether you need to mow a small yard or tend to 40 acres, The Home Depot has the right equipment for every lawn size and budget. Selecting the right mower for your outdoor needs may seem daunting at first, but here are some helpful tips to help make the process easier.

Size up your lawn

Understanding what your lawn needs is an important first step in helping choose the right mower.

- A push reel mower (cuts with a scissor-like action of rotating blades passing over a stationary knife) is perfect if you have a small lawn.

- A gas or electric powered rotary mower (cuts with a circular blade that rotates under a protective housing), is the most popular type of lawn mower, and is great for medium to large lawns.

- Self-propelled mowers are easier to use if you have a hilly yard or a large lawn.

- Choose a riding lawn mower if you have a large property.

Get the most mower for your money

Whatever the size of your yard, buying a mower that's large enough and has enough power to handle the job will make lawn mowing easier. Things to look for and compare when purchasing a mower include: weight, power, cost, safety features, ease of starting, handling and maneuverability, and ease of clipping disposal.

Cut your green with a little green

Did you know that a standard gas mower can emit the same amount of common air pollutants in one hour as driving a new car over 550km? If you are in the market for a new lawn mower consider some of the greener options available. Push reel, electric, rechargeable and solar powered mowers are all great eco-friendly options that will help you have a green mowing season.

If your lawn mower is so heavy that you can hardly push it, with an engine so loud your neighbours complain every time you turn it on, it might be time to invest in a new mower. Visit www.thehomedepot.ca or your local The Home Depot store for more tips on finding a mower that's right for you.

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This summer's hottest vacation destination

(NC) When you dream of that perfect vacation spot, it often leads to visions of sitting under the sun, enjoying a cold drink, and dining on delicious meals. These days, as it becomes more difficult to justify the cost and hassle of family travel, homeowners are choosing to create a vacation oasis in their very own backyards.

The outdoor entertaining experts at Broil King offer the following tips to help make your backyard your new favourite vacation destination.

- Modernize your patio and extend your living space outdoors. Cozy furniture, music, and ambient lighting create the perfect atmosphere to relax and entertain.

- Design an outdoor kitchen area where you can entertain and grill your favourite dishes. Include storage for grilling essentials, like tool sets, grilling baskets, cutting boards and thermometers. The more organized your outdoor kitchen, the less time you will need to spend inside.

- Update the landscape; incorporate a fireplace, waterfall or focal point to your outdoor oasis. A freshly mowed lawn and flowers in bloom will brighten the scenery.

- Stock up on games, from bocce ball and croquet to badminton and horseshoes. There are plenty of backyard games well-suited for family and friends.

- Like all successful vacations, you need to do a little planning. Establish a start and end date so it is a true vacation. Create your own official timeline to avoid falling into the daily routine around the house. A delectable idea and great way to make a staycation special, is to plan outdoor grilling feasts. Choose a theme; Hawaiian Luau, or Wild West and invite over family and close friends. Remember you're on vacation; don't be afraid to try new things and experiment with flavours and grilling techniques like using wood chips and a smoker or grilling on cedar planks. A good quality grill will allow you to create meals that will rival any fine restaurant and at a fraction of the cost. Gather your guests around the grill and make it an unforgettable dining occasion.

More outdoor entertaining ideas can be found online at www.broilkingbbq.com.

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