

# JULY NEWSLETTER



*"What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals."  
- Zig Ziglar*

## How to Keep Your Yard Looking Its Best This Summer

[thespruce.com](http://thespruce.com)

As the season of backyard barbecues and lounging by the pool, it's important to keep your yard in prime condition during the summer. At the same time, you'll probably want to spend less time maintaining your yard and more time actually enjoying it.

To help you achieve that balance, here are some quick and easy tips for keeping your yard looking its best this summer:

- Gather the necessary supplies, including those needed for your comfort. One of the most dreaded aspects of doing yard work during the summer is contending with the heat and insects. Therefore, before you get started, gather all the supplies you think you'll need, including bug spray, sunscreen, durable gloves, and large trash bags. Additionally, remember to stay hydrated, and take frequent breaks to head indoors or take a dip in the pool in order to avoid becoming overheated.
- Set a schedule for lawn care. Even with its constant demands, maintaining a healthy lawn is far easier than having to start from scratch if your lawn dies. To ease the burden of lawn maintenance, it may help to create (and stick to) a schedule for when you're going to mow, water, and apply fertilizers and weed control products. As an alternative, you might consider getting rid of all or some of your lawn and replacing it with something that requires less maintenance. The options are endless, ranging from artificial turf to patio space to gardens that may include herbs, fruits and vegetables, or succulents.
- Stay ahead of pest control. Once you've achieved the perfectly manicured lawn or garden, the last thing you'd want is for moles, groundhogs, and other pests to destroy it. Preventative measures will depend on the specific critters that pose a threat to your yard, but may include applying repellants or installing fencing around certain plants. And don't forget to take steps to ward off insects that could be a risk for humans, such as ticks or mosquitoes (which may carry West Nile virus). For mosquitoes, be sure to remove any sources of standing water; for ticks, consider planting deer-resistant plants, which will help keep away deer and the dangerous ticks they sometimes carry.
- Prioritize pruning and weeding. In most areas, the warm temperatures and rains of the summer months can cause yards to quickly become overgrown. While regular pruning and weeding may seem like a hassle, it will help plants stay healthy and keep your yard looking beautiful. Another important task, particularly during the summer, is to trim dead tree limbs, as they could pose a threat to your home during storms and strong winds.



## Summer Panzanella

delish.com

### Ingredients:

- 1/4 c. extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for brushing
- 2 3/4"-thick slices country bread
- 1 medium zucchini or summer squash, halved
- 1/2 large red onion, cut into 4 wedges
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 4 c. diced mixed tomatoes (such as heirloom, vine-ripened, cherry, and grape)
- 1 c. cubed fresh mozzarella
- 1/2 c. packed fresh basil leaves, torn into bite-size pieces
- Balsamic glaze, for drizzling

### Directions:

- Heat grill to medium-high and oil the grates. Brush bread, zucchini, and onion all over with oil and season with salt and pepper.
- Grill bread and veggies until bread is lightly charred and toasted, 30 seconds to 1 minute per side, and zucchini and onion are lightly charred and crisp-tender, 3 minutes per side.
- Transfer grilled bread, zucchini, and onion to a work surface. Rub garlic on both cut sides of the bread, then let everything cool slightly.
- Cut bread into bite-size cubes, thinly slice zucchini crosswise, and chop onion.
- In a large bowl, whisk together oil and the vinegar, then season with salt and pepper. Add bread cubes, zucchini, onion, tomatoes, mozzarella, and basil. Toss to combine and drizzle with balsamic glaze before serving.



## Buying a Home? Here's a Pre-Move In Checklist

redfin.com

Buying a home is an exciting—and often stressful—process. While the closing represents the end of your negotiations with the seller and officially transfers ownership to you as the buyer, there are still several steps to take in order to make your new home truly your own. Here is a checklist of some of the most important things you can do to ensure a smooth process when moving into a new home:

- Transfer utilities to your name. In order to be able to begin enjoying your new home as soon as you move in, it's necessary to ensure that the utilities, including electric, water, gas, and garbage collection, are up and running in advance. To avoid any delays, contact your utility companies a few weeks before your move-in date and have all accounts transferred to your name. In addition, ensure that internet and cable (if applicable) are set up in your new home.
- Update your mailing address. To avoid missing a bill or other important piece of mail, be sure to update your address with the post office, your bank, credit card companies, insurance agencies, and anyone else who may try to contact you by mail.
- Change the locks. Once the sale has closed and you're the official owner of your new home, one of the most important ways to ensure your security is to have the locks changed—after all, you never know how many spare keys the previous owners had, or to whom they may have given copies.
- Hire professional cleaners. Even if your new home is in great condition, hiring professionals to do a deep cleaning can help ensure that each room is sparkling, sanitary, and ready for you to make it your own.



If you are currently working with another Broker please do not consider this a solicitation.

