

WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshop

March Riding Mower

Ages 5-12

CONNECT.

If you could have your dream backyard, what would it look like? Where would you play? Would there be any hiding spots? Close your eyes and explore this yard with your mind.

INVESTIGATE.

Let's begin your dream backyard by learning how to grow a lawn. As your grass grows, your new riding mower can keep it at the perfect length!

You'll need:

- Small garden bed, pot, or window box (depending on where you'd like to grow your grass)
 - Bagged pebbles
 - Potting soil
 - Grass seed*
 - Spray bottle
1. Decide where you will grow your grass. Most grasses need at least four or five hours of sun each day, so try to choose a sunny corner of your home—either inside or outside!
 2. Select a container for growing your grass. A small garden bed, a pot, or a window box will all work, and any size is fine as long as it is bigger than your lawn mower.
 3. Layer the bottom of your container with pebbles. This will help the soil drain when it is watered.
 4. Add a thick layer of potting soil on top of the pebbles. Try to add at least three inches of soil or fill your container a bit more than halfway.
 5. Sprinkle the grass seed on top of the potting soil with your hand. You can be generous, but don't just dump the seeds. If there are too many seeds on top of each other, they may not grow!
 6. Cover the seeds with another $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of soil, and then gently pat the soil with your hands.
 7. Use the spray bottle to water the seeds, being sure to moisten the soil but not saturate it.
 8. Continue to spray the soil whenever it begins to feel dry.

INNOVATE.

Depending on the grass you chose, you should see growth within the next one to three weeks. Once the grass sprouts, follow the steps below to transform your grass into your mini dream backyard!

You'll need

- Foam board
- Utility knife (and an adult's help)
- Colored markers
- Super glue
- Clay saucer
- Bagged stones/pebbles
- Polymer clay



1. Ready to be creative? Look at the materials you have available and brainstorm how they could add special touches to your dream yard.

For instance, you could...

- With the help of an adult, cut the foam board into pieces to make a fence, a playhouse, or a welcome sign.
 - Transform the clay saucer into a small pond.
 - Build a stone wall with the stones and super glue.
 - Design a playground with the polymer clay.
2. Start building and adding to your yard once you have a few ideas. As you begin designing, new ideas are sure to follow! Before you know it, you'll have a backyard even better than the one you pictured in your mind.
 3. When your redesign is complete, remember to keep watering your grass to help your lawn stay as lush and green as possible.

*There are many different kinds of grass seed! Once you decide where you will grow your grass and you know much sun it will get, you'll be able to choose the best seed for your location. Still have questions? Ask someone at The Home Depot Garden Center!

