How to save 27 hours of yard work.

These three tips will give you over a day of your life back each year!

When you think of the work you have to do in your yard, it generally falls into three main categories: mowing, weed management, and raking.

These are the three specific areas we're going to tackle. And I'm going to tell you how to save time while still having a beautiful yard.

1. Mow Taller and Less Frequently

This one is the most important.
It saves you an average of aver **16 hours a year!***

We've been tricked that we need to mow it *at least* once a week to look nice.
I've been there. And I've switched to mowing higher and less frequently.

Here's what to do:

- **When the grass isn't growing - Don't mow it!**
  - I have neighbors who mow pretty much regardless of whether the grass has grown. Waste. Of. Time.

- **When it's growing slowly, mow as little as needed!**

- **When your grass is growing bonkers, mow it when it starts to look a little scraggly.** (it's a word)

- **Mow on the highest setting you're comfortable.** The higher the better
  - Most mowers adjust up to 4". I recommend mowing at *no lower* than 3" for most grasses. 4" is great.

Here's why it works:

- Mowing higher makes your grass stronger and less stressed. Basically your lawn is more comfortable. So it grows less quickly because it's not struggling to survive.
- Mowing less frequently allows longer time for grass to recuperate. This is also a peace of mind thing. If you tell yourself you can mow every 1.5-2 weeks, you'll see that your grass will look fine and nobody will have a heart attack.
- The higher you mow, the less weeds you'll have.
- Lots of people mow to make the grass blades look even and your lawn look smooth. Because your grass grows slower when it's taller, you can still have this even-cut look for a longer time than shorter lawns.

2. Heavy mulch gardens instead of weed treatment

This can save you an average of **6 hours a year!***

Use nature to combat weeds instead of your own work. This is basically it.

Starting each growing season with a thick layer of mulch at least 4" deep will prevent most weeds from even growing.

Bonus - you aren't spraying as many chemicals on your yard or spending time on your knees pulling weed after weed.

Here's what to do:

- **Set a firm barrier of mulch early in the season** before weeds begin growing.
  - 4-6" is best
  - Make sure not to cover up to the base of trees and large shrubs. This can kill them.
- **Use mulch without chemical additives**, preservatives, or colorants.
  - While it may look pretty, this stuff can actually make you plants and soil sick
  - Ask your mulch provider for a source without all that stuff

Here's why it works:

- Weeds usually start to grow when their seeds sense light or poor soil. Mulch combats both.
- Deep mulch prevents the weeds that germinate from reaching light. Most will shrivel and die before reaching the surface. Those that make it are usually easy to remove.

That's it. It's a simple one!

3. Mulch your leaves instead of raking and removal

This can save you an average of **5 hours a year!***

All of my neighbors, every fall, go out and rake and bag and vacuum and work and work…
I don't. I mow once when all the leaves are down. Bam. Done. Mulching your leaves with a mower is easier and better for your yard.

Here's what to do:

- **Wait until all the leaves fall in your yard.**

- **Once they're down, mulch your leaves** with your mower
    - Make sure your blades are sharp

- **Mulch your leaves back into your yard.** Don't bag them!

Here's why it works:

- First, you're not raking. Ugh.
    - The only reason I ever rake is so my kids can jump into the piles!
        - Then I spread them back out and mow over them. Haha okay that's dumb.
- The mulched leaves will decompose into your yard and make awesome fertilizer for your lawn!
- Mulching prevents large leaves from smothering your grass and leaving you with dead patches or weed spots the next year.

That’s it! These three dead-simple habit changes will have you relaxing and enjoying life for a **whole extra day**!

What are you going to do with your extra day this year! Make sure to make it worth it!

*For you nerds out there like me, keep reading to see the data I used.

Do everything with passion, and make tomorrow better than today.

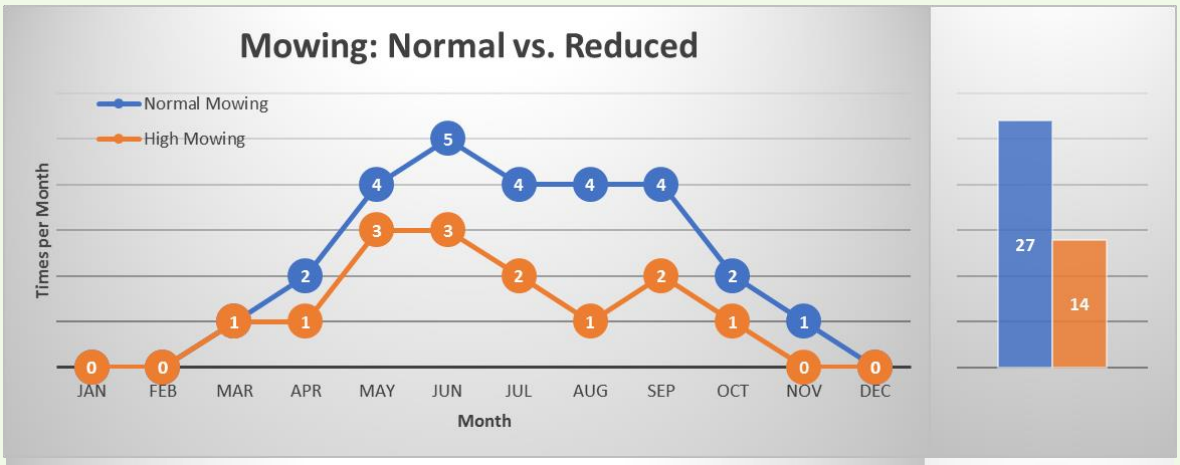
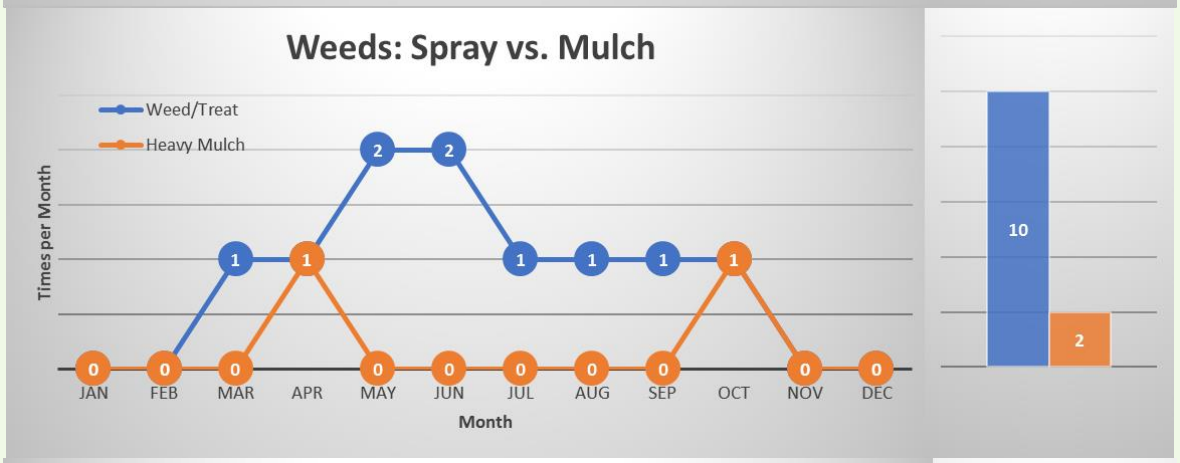
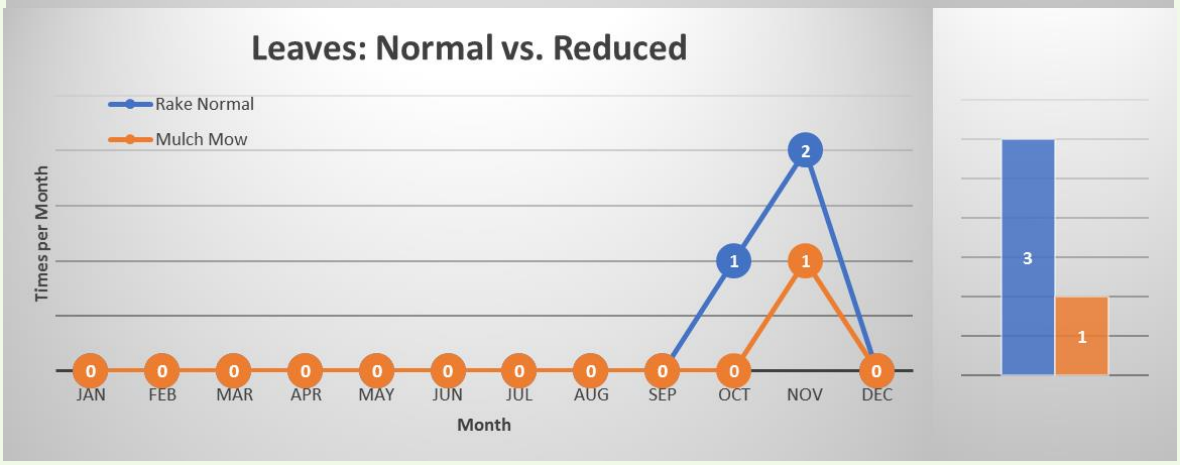
Cheers,
Ben Hale

Easy Living Yards
EasyLivingYards.com

*For you nerds out there like me, here's the data I used.

It's okay, I won't know if you keep reading. I would do it too.

Okay, I'll shut up. Here it is.

The following assumptions were made for this exercise:

- The average American lot is 0.35 acres
- I took my average maintenance times, average neighbor maintenance times for "normal" and "reduced" data.
- This data assumes you use a push mower or standard riding mower. A zero-turn mower would reduce the average mowing time.