

Garden Party Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

- Before the Party
 - Two weeks before the party, consider giving your outdoor furniture a major repaint.
 - Decide on the kind of lighting and music that you want to have for the event.
 - Arrange to have a good clean-up in the garden.
 - Check the weather forecast in advance so you can be prepared to make alternative plans.
 - Create a guest list and send invitations.
 - Create a shopping list for everything you will need to prepare.
 - Consider hiring a bartender to serve up mixed drinks.
- Day of the Party
 - Prepare and cook the meals.
 - Enlist the help of your family in arranging the necessary furniture and decorations.
 - Lay the table arrangements.
 - Put different colored tablecloths on the tables.
 - Use small flower pots to hold the silverware and napkins.
 - Perch votive candles in glass holders on tree branches.
 - Use Citronella candle pots or torches.
 - Illuminate steps and steep paths.
 - Turn on the music to set the mood for your garden party.