## 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.