

# St. Petersburg Times

## LIFTER GIVES THE BACK A BREAK

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### Document Text

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No more oh-your-aching-back with the PotLifter. It's a device made of nylon webbing and plastic that securely cinches a heavy pot, a giant pumpkin, a tree root ball or a rock, and allows two people to lift without straining. It can hold 200 pounds and has a circumference of 6 feet. Suggested retail is \$29.95. More information: toll-free 1-888-644-4222 or [www.potlifter.com](http://www.potlifter.com).

### GreenFest shapes up green thumbs

Classes, plant sales, guest speakers and HGTV's "Gardening Guy," Paul James, are all on the agenda March 24 and 25 at GreenFest 2007. The nature festival is at Plant Park at the University of Tampa, 401 E Kennedy Blvd. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days; admission is \$3; children younger than 12 free. James, who hosts HGTV's Gardening by the Yard, will also speak Friday at the annual GreenFest Luncheon (patrons \$100; general admission \$60; (813) 254-0562). Details and times are at [tampagreenfest.com](http://tampagreenfest.com).

### Empire strikes back at lawn woes

If you haven't seen the ad campaign yet, it's just a matter of time: A big push is on to acquaint Floridians with the virtues of Empire, a variety of zoysiagrass that is extremely drought-tolerant and low-maintenance (less mowing and fertilizing) than other zoysias and some St. Augustines. It also fends off chinch bugs well. Some big planned communities, including Lakewood Ranch in Manatee County, are using it. Empire has a unique blue-green color, and its wider blades are softer than some of the scratchy grasses we're familiar with. For information and retailers, visit [empireturf.com](http://empireturf.com).

### A new magazine for flower lovers

Check the newsstands for Flower, a new magazine aimed at flower enthusiasts and novice and professional floral designers. The first issue came out this week. Look for how-tos, new products, news of the industry, a calendar of events and profiles of floral artists. Details are at [flowermag.com](http://flowermag.com).

### Leave the mowing to your robot

The LawnBott by Kyodo is a programmable, robotic mower powered by a rechargeable battery. Set up its mowing pattern once and the robotic mower takes it from there on a mowing schedule you program. A perimeter cable you install defines the areas to be mowed. The LawnBott returns itself to its "house" when mowing is done and will wait patiently if it's raining. The manufacturer says it's so quiet you can mow at night. Find details at [lawnbott.com](http://lawnbott.com). The LawnBott costs \$1,850 to \$2,300.

**[Illustration]**

Caption: PHOTO: PotLifter PHOTO: The LawnBott by Kyodo

Credit: GARDEN; BACKYARD CUTTINGS; Times Homes and Garden Editor

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**Abstract** (Document Summary)

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