

- US - April 2020

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## This report looks at the following areas:

- The impact of COVID-19 on consumer behavior and the lawn and garden category
- How the market will fare the post-COVID-19 slowdown
- Consumer drivers for participating in the lawn and garden market
- Usage of lawn and garden products by key consumer segments

Sales growth in the lawn and garden market is historically tied to housing market growth. Low interest rates spurred a wave of home buying over the past year; however, the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic will cause many prospective buyers to put theirhome-buying aspirations on hold, adversely impacting lawn and garden product sales. Despite this, the pandemic has also spurred an interest in home-grown food production for greater self-sufficiency. This is evidenced by dozens of news articles that detail unprecedented demand for seeds and garden plants.

The market is slowly but assuredly innovating safer, more environmentally friendly products and this will be a critical strategy for sustained growth. In particular, consumers are concerned about the safety of lawn chemicals, but also feel that they have few alternatives. Brands that crack the code of safe and effective products will reshape the category for the next generation of consumers.



"These are uncertain times.
COVID-19 casts a shadow
over a category with slowing
sales growth, not to mention
the health and safety of
consumers. But there is also
space for the category to
reinvent itself around better
health, sustainability and
nutrition for humans as well as
plants."

Jamie Rosenberg, Senior
 Global Analyst

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COVID-19 will decelerate growth

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• There is a return to the suburbs, but lot size is still declining

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- Scotts is buoyed by diversification
- Spectrum Brands sees big declines in sales and market share
- Advancing technology will save time, resources and reduce human error
- Evolving sensor technology will optimize water and fertilizer use

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Scotts regains lost sales and share

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- Use of professionals grows with age and income
- Big box stores are still the top retailers, but losing share
- · Health, beauty and food are top of mind for consumers

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