



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## Style bookshelf décor effortlessly

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For the News-Leader

Bookshelves pull double duty as storage for novels and display space for accessories. Learn how to decorate bookshelves so they are both functional and pleasing to the eye. These bookshelf decor ideas will help you turn an empty set of shelves into a carefully curated arrangement.

### How to decorate bookshelves

The best bookshelf decor often comes from items you already have in your home. Shop around your house to find artwork, picture frames, vases and other accessories in a cohesive color scheme or style. Place the largest items on the bookshelf first, staggering objects between shelves. Fill in with the rest of your objects, adding in stacks of books or magazines and potted plants for added color and texture.



Gaskill

Look for new pieces to add brightness and enhance the décor.

### Easy bookshelf décor

For picture-perfect bookcase decor, resist the urge to pack in a ton of accessories on every shelf. Keep a clean look by choosing a one color or tone-on-tone scheme for vases and figurines and make sure to mix up shapes. Every so often, step back to assess the overall balance of your arrangement. Place items off-center or try larger or smaller ones until you like what you see.

### Decorate bookshelves with mementos

Objects that have special meaning to you or evoke certain memories make great bookshelf decor. Gather souvenirs from travels, flea market artwork, or treasured collectibles to decorate your shelves. For a more dynamic display, arrange stacks of horizontal books to serve as a pedestal for small objects.

### Arranging accessories on bookshelves

To add interest to your reading materials, alternate stacking books horizontally and vertically. One of the best ideas for decorating bookcases is to use accessories as bookends. Boldly colored accents and picture frames make great bookends and stand out on neutral shelves.

### How to arrange bookshelves

Organize books by the color of their spines to create color-blocked bookshelf decor. Vary heights and create interest by stacking books horizontally as well as lining them up vertically. If you have volumes that don't fit with the others, turn their spines to face the wall so only the

pages are visible.

### Layered bookshelf décor

Deep bookshelves give you the luxury to play with layers. Lean artwork along the back of the shelves and anchor them with books or heavier objects. To decorate the bookcase, place a few small pieces of art near the front of the shelves to give them depth. Bulky vases or decorative plates can hide their left behind small frames without losing their uniqueness.

### Bold yet simple bookshelf décor

If your book spines lack visual style, paint the surrounding bookshelves a contrasting color to draw focus. Black built-ins stand out sharply against mostly white decor on the shelves and elsewhere in the room. Turning books around so the pages face outward instead of the spine can also help bookshelf decor stick to a more cohesive color palette.

### Bookshelf storage ideas

Boost storage by tucking a bookcase into an unused space. In a banquet area, a blank wall transforms into handy storage space thanks to a set of built-in shelves. Use books and baskets of frequently used items to decorate lower shelves. Save the upper shelves for decorative objects or other items that you don't frequently need to reach.

### Modern bookshelf décor ideas

Modern shelves call for a sparse look, so group together a small set of books that are all of a fairly uniform size. Accessorize with streamlined vases and metallic decor, leaving lots of open space on shelves to let the accessories shine through. Give the whole shelving unit a pop with a brightly colored backdrop of wallpaper.

### Symmetrical bookshelf décor

To give office bookshelves an organized feel, gather a wide variety of collectibles. Place your chosen items between books, creating loose symmetry. If you have a picture frame or square shape in one shelf, mirror it with a collectible of a similar shape and size on the opposite side. In a wall of bookshelves, it's important to scatter books here and there to punctuate the look.

### Pretty Bookend Ideas

Don't forget the power of bookends when decorating bookshelves. Use heavy, sturdy decor or even pieces of architectural salvage as a bookend to keep shelves neat and organized. Bookends especially come in handy for paperbacks and slimmer books which are less likely to stay upright.

### Living room bookshelf décor ideas

For a display-worthy decorative bookcase, organize books and decor on staggered shelving.



A slanted shelf is even more interesting with uneven rows and columns. For a living room bookshelf, place the most attention-grabbing titles and artwork at eye level for guests to peruse.

### Functional bookshelf storage

Bookshelves are great tools to keep a living space organized. Slip magazine holders on open shelves to hold loose papers. Storage boxes conceal clutter and can add bold color to the arrangement. Use sale items, flea market finds, decorative containers and potted houseplants to finish off bookshelf decor.

### Clean bookcase décor

Get the most storage and style out of built-in bookcases by filling the shelves with books. Organize shelves by color for a decorative look without the need for extra accessories. Remember that you can hang decor off shelves as well. Mounted art pieces help break up the lines of books.

### Neutral bookshelf décor

Vintage pieces make great bookshelf decor. Select a couple of select items to showcase. Vintage books pair well with an antique suitcase and serve as a pedestal for a wide wooden bowl. Books set with their pages turned out fill out the neutral bookshelf decor.

### Bookshelf art ideas

It can be difficult to determine how to decorate bookshelves with an eclectic style. When you have art pieces that span a variety of styles, they can all work together on a bookshelf as long as colors



coordinate.

### Bedroom bookshelf décor ideas

Utilize a built-in bookcase as a fashionable and functional headboard. Mounted sconces leave plenty of room for a library of nighttime reading materials and decor. Add more appeal with vases and frames set between shelves full of books.

In the end there are several ways you can approach décor for your bookshelves. These are just a few ideas to spur your creativity.

Jeanette Gaskill is the lead designer for Coastal Cottage of Amelia, where she has worked for the past six years. She loves being able to work hand-in-hand with her customers to design the spaces they dream of. Gaskill knows that interior design is very personal so she considers it an honor to be invited into her customer's homes. As part of the process, she takes time to get to know her customer's personality and tastes which is always reflected in the final result - she can make magic.

## A landscape lurker

Lurking, hiding, infiltrating our landscapes; a nuisance of ill-repute. Seemingly innocuous at the surface, its rhizomatous mass forcibly pushes below our feet, spreading, overtaking and quickly erupting from the soil to overtake our landscapes. The culprit? Torpedograss (*Panicum repens*). This highly invasive grass species is recognized as a noxious weed in Alabama, Arizona, Hawaii, Texas and Florida. Its presence disrupts our native landscapes, impacts stormwater functionality, and quickly destroys and overcomes our landscapes. This highly adaptable grass grows in well-drained soils to inundated landscapes. In fact, Torpedograss is present in 70% of Florida's public waters.

In the past couple of months, our extension office received dozens of calls and emails regarding Torpedograss. Torpedograss' ability to spread allows it to quickly overtake our landscapes and cause thousands of dollars in damages. The grass' ability to spread is impressive. It gets its name "Torpedograss" because its underground rhizomes spread like torpedoes shooting through the soil. Rhizomes are at depths of 24-30" with some reports of being 23 feet below the surface.

Torpedograss spreads by its rhizomes, but it also can reproduce from fragments of its rhizomes or stems. The biggest culprit for it spreading into the landscape is a lawn mower. As a lawn mower cuts the grass in our lawns, it spreads hundreds of fragments that can root and begin growing - it is a nightmare.

Once in our landscapes, torpedograss quickly spreads through our turfgrass and into our ornamental beds. Unfortunately, it hides very well in our lawns so we may spread torpedograss throughout our landscape without knowing until it is too late. Therefore, management for torpedograss starts with recognition and following best management practices to reduce or eliminate the spread.



### GARDEN TALK

Taylor Clem

To reduce the spread, we should clean our equipment after trimming and cutting our grass with a hose. This is difficult to do for green-industry professionals which can unintentionally spread the grass, but many companies have adopted management practices to prevent its spread. Once established, homeowners can manually remove torpedograss, but it is vital we remove the rhizomes. If we break any pieces of the rhizomes or stems without removal, we risk spreading the plant further.

Chemical control is a viable option but may take multiple applications- in most cases. Control in our ornamental beds can be done with glyphosate or sethoxydim. Spot treatment of glyphosate is required to prevent damage to ornamental plants. Sethoxydim is safe to apply over most ornamental plants but is not as effective as glyphosate. In turfgrass, sethoxydim is safe for Centipedegrass, quinclorac is successful for Bermuda and Zoysiagrass, but there is no control safe for St Augustinegrass unless you have glyphosate tolerant ProVista St Augustinegrass. With the use of any pesticide, be sure you follow the label's directions.

If you are like me and have torpedograss invading your turfgrass, it is best to act quick rather than letting the invasive species spread. Although there is no control for St Augustinegrass, glyphosate is a reasonable con-



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Torpedograss is known for its deep rhizomes that spread aggressively under the ground. Rising from culms (aerial stems), the leaf blades erupt in our landscapes. The leaves have a light green color and they are stiff and flat with a white/waxy surface.

control to quickly eliminate torpedograss and then replace the turfgrass. This strategy beats completely replacing your entire area. In these situations, it could also be an opportunity to consider eliminating unnecessary turfgrass spaces and replace them with ornamental beds.

Staying vigilant in landscape management is critical in identifying and managing landscape nuisances like Torpedograss. Identifying and catching torpedograss early is critical in its control and management. If you have any ques-

tions about managing torpedograss or any other landscape nuisance, feel free to reach out to our county extension office. You may reach out to the Nassau County Master Gardener Volunteers at NassauMGV@ifas.ufl.edu You may also view and register for all our upcoming programs at [www.bit.ly/NassauHorticulture](http://www.bit.ly/NassauHorticulture)

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