



LAWN ALTERNATIVES

The weather is hot and the ground is dry, not enough water, the beautiful green lawn of May is now brown. What to do? Consider replacing all or some of the lawn area with an alternative.

Create a new garden or enlarge an existing bed. Perhaps you could develop a large bed area where your lawn now is and plant it with hardy, low maintenance shrubs such as Burningbush, Spirea, Hydrangea, Potentilla or Rugosa Rose. The bed could be planted with just one variety or plant a mix.

A bed of evergreen groundcovers such as Junipers, Cotoneaster, Rhododendron or Euonymus could replace much of the lawn area.

When looking for alternatives take time to plan the alteration, it is a large area and a lot of initial muscle power; you want to enjoy looking at it when you're done. Select plants for the location. Is it sun or shade, hot and dry or moist? By carefully selecting the proper plants, your alternative lawn will look get in no time. Reduced watering and no more mowing on Sunday mornings.

Add colour to your lawn with flowering plants or plants with coloured foliage, it's more attractive than an even green turf area. Eliminate the site of a smooth, level turf area by varying the height of your plants. The area will look larger and more interesting.

If you would like to retain some turf area but replace much of it with alternative plantings; here is a little exercise to help make your decisions easier. Some day when it's really not convenient, because of time or energy, go out and mow your lawn. Only do the easy or enjoyable areas. Quit when you become annoyed, such as steep slopes, tight corners, bumpy ground, under trees with low branches or next to buildings. When you quit take a look back, the areas you have mowed can remain turf and the unmowed areas will be replaced with alternatives. When you begin construction use your lawn mower to outline the edges of your new planting area. The edges will be easy to mow around and will probably have nice natural and graceful curves.

When planting your new area, remember to space the plants close enough so they quickly cover the area before weeds have a chance to take over. Select fast growing plants, but not overly aggressive or they may take over where you don't want them.

Suggestions for great plant alternatives:

Acaena – New Zealand Burr

Achillea - Yarrow

Alchemilla – Lady's Mantle

Ajuga – Bugleweed

Artemisia – Silver Sage

ROOTS & SHOOTS



Cerastium – Snow in Summer
Coreopsis - Tickseed
Cotoneaster
Euonymus
Fragaria – Wild Strawberry
Galium – Sweet Woodruff
Geranium - Cranesbill
Hemerocallis - Daylily
Herniaria – Rupturewort
Hosta
Iris – Siberian Iris
Juniper
Lamium – False Salvia
Lysimachia - Moneywort
Ornamental Grasses
Pachysandra
Potentilla
Phlox – Moss Phlox
Sagina – Moss
Sedum – Stonecrop
Stachys – Lamb’s Ears
Thymus – Thyme
Trifolium – Clover
Veronica – Speedwell
Vinca - Periwinkle
Viola – Violet