

Lawn of the Future: Low maintenance alternatives to Kentucky bluegrass

Douglas Owens-Pike

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Hosted by [Wild Ones St. Croix Oak Savanna](#), Stillwater, MN

Outline of what we will cover

Conventional turf: mow vs. weeding

Low maintenance alternatives

Synthetic, save water, 9 billion gallons/yr nationwide

Typical lawn

Hell strip

More diverse lawn

Reduce care needs as you cut blades at greater height

Turf is healthier, needs less water, less weeding

Stop mowing creates habitat, dry soil yields native grass & turkeys

Steep slope – dangerous to mow

Thyme path with blue gramma lawn

No Mow turf examples (mix of fine fescue species)

Process to establish: solarize/strip sod/herbicide or Acetic acid (20%)

Best sown in fall

Example sites

Challenges with rolling out sod – need mesh backing

Mixed with red clover edging native meadow diversity

Compost tilled into clay

Native front yard, “No Mow” at curb beyond raingarden

Raingarden in center of driveway circle, tallest plants in deeper center

Shade habitat

Ivory sedge, next to “No Mow” with white clover in bloom,

March 1st ivory in contrast with oval sedge, same on 17th vs. bluegrass lawn

Full sun to part shade

Pennsylvania sedge, dry & well-drained perfect: edge of walk, lawn

With pussytoes and prairie smoke

Deep shade native alternatives with broad leaves

Wild ginger, twinflower, heath aster, moss, pearly everlasting,

prairie groundsel, prairie phlox

What's this?

Entry garden with nine plants

Richfield yard from curb to home: “No Mow”, berm with NJ tea, aspen,

rough blazing star, sedge at downspout outlet to raingarden, wild petunia,

new walk with pipe carrying downspout: prairie smoke, pussytoes,

Junegrass, butterfly flower, and prairie dropseed

References:

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For design assistance contact:

Nathalie Shanstrom, PLA

pasquedesign@gmail.com

Mobile: (612) 868-8033