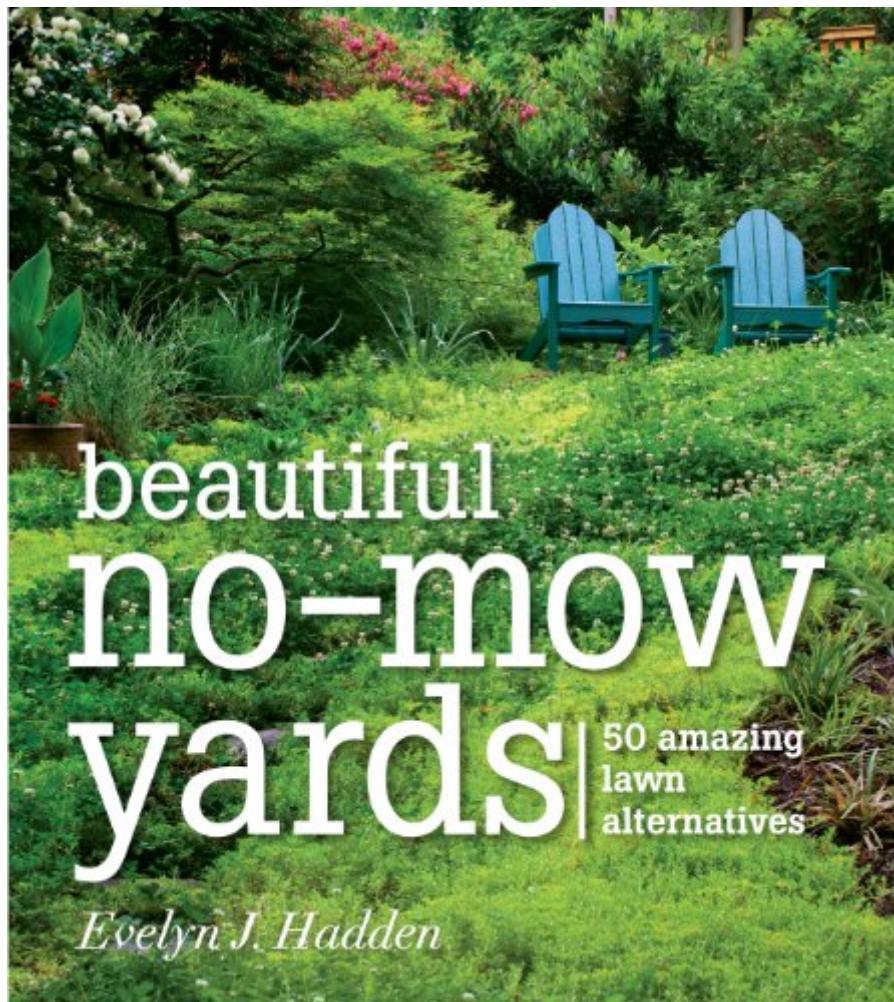


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Beautiful No-Mow Yards: 50 Amazing Lawn Alternatives



Synopsis

What has your perfect green lawn done for you lately? Is it really worth the time, effort, and resources you lavish on it? Armed with encouragement, inspiration, and cutting-edge advice from award-winning author Evelyn Hadden, you can liberate yourself at last! In this ultimate guide to rethinking your yard, Hadden showcases dozens of inspiring, eco-friendly alternatives to that demanding (and dare we say boring?) green turf. Trade your lawn for a lively prairie or replace it with a runoff-reducing rain garden. Swap it for an interactive adventure garden or convert it to a low-maintenance living carpet. With Beautiful No-Mow Yards, you can transform your lawn into a livable garden and bring nature's beauty into your life!

Book Information

File Size: 8997 KB

Print Length: 252 pages

Publisher: Timber Press (May 17, 2012)

Publication Date: May 17, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00844PHLG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #439,376 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #16 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Horticulture > Lawns #58 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Lawns #106 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Horticulture > Landscape

Customer Reviews

If you're the type of person who likes to fully understand the options available to you, you'll love the thorough text in this meaty book. The author goes into great detail on a number of different topics having to do with designing your new lawn-free space. Hadden begins by talking about living carpets, plants that will form a thick groundcover and give that same open look that a lawn does,

while growing tall enough to suppress weeds. She then moves into talking about shade gardens, meadow and prairie gardens, and rain gardens, giving some solutions for each type of space. Her section on patios includes some helpful photos which give inspiration on some different styles for designing the patio, as well as a lot of practical tips for designing that most people wouldn't think about until AFTER they made a design mistake with unfortunate maintenance or aesthetic consequences. I also really liked her section on play areas, which included some unusual natural spaces that would encourage kids and grown-ups alike to want to be outdoors. In her section on ponds, Hadden cleverly points out that "a pond can outperform a lawn as a low, open expanse to look across from your home or patio, bringing light, movement, wildlife, and possibilities for play into your garden." This is something that I've seen in my own landscape design practice. In small or skinny areas where maintaining a small lawn can be a real chore, a pond, either natural or in a geometric shape, can instantly add a huge amount of design appeal, yet takes about the same amount of time each month to maintain as a lawn. Most people don't even think of a pond as a lawn alternative, yet it is an elegant and dramatic one.

There is a controversy about the role of the lawn in our culture. Some cannot imagine having a home or an estate without one, while others can hardly wait to replace theirs with alternative forms of landscaping. Here is a publication that adds realism and practicality to the ongoing dialogue. On one side of the discussion are those who believe that a green lawn is a sign of refinement, elegance, and that it contributes to the quality of air we breathe. The other side is composed of three sub-groups: first are those who look upon lawn maintenance as a bother- some chore that squanders time, energy, natural resources, and money, and second are those who believe that the excessive nutrients and herbicides, associated with lawn care, harm our environment. The third group reminds us that it is unrealistic to grow green lawns in arid climates. For homeowners considering alternative forms of landscaping, Ms. Hadden has prepared practical and beautiful alternatives. Some of the ideas she provides are sufficiently attractive to grace the front yards of elegant homes, while others are better suited to a back yard or woodland. Readers who might shudder at the thought of replacing the grass in their front yard with messy and chaotic meadow gardens will be relieved to learn that a meadow is but one of eleven practical, urban-friendly options. Ms. Hadden's book is divided into three main sections. In the first, she introduces and discusses in detail the eleven no-mow options. These include groundcover gardens, shade gardens, meadows, rain gardens, patios, play areas, ponds, xeriscape gardens, edible gardens, stroll gardens, and "smarter" lawns. Groundcover gardens are low living carpets of plants that never...

need mowing, watering, or fertilizer.

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