



### Why Lawn Reform?

The problems include:

☞ **Polluted Waterways:** Pesticides, herbicides, and excess fertilizers are regularly washed from lawns into local watersheds disrupting aquatic ecosystems.

☞ **Pesticide-Treated Lawns** are toxic to humans, pets, and wildlife.

☞ **Waste of a Precious Resource: Water** 50% or more of our potable water is used on lawns especially during the summer. Water restrictions are becoming common.

☞ **Lawns addicted to chemicals and over-watering cost homeowners more in money and labor.** Such lawn care destroys soil health, kills beneficial insects, reduces the drought-tolerance of turf grasses, and increases the need to mow and trim.

☞ **Lawns are single-species monocultures that provide nothing for wildlife.** The Audubon Society estimates that some bird populations have dropped by 80% since 1967.

☞ **Gas-powered machinery pollutes the air and the quiet.** Conventional lawn-care requires frequent use of mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers, and edgers.

### The Solutions are Many

☞ **Practice Organic Lawn Care:** Use organic, slow-release fertilizers, apply only pre-emergent weed killer, leave clippings on the lawn, and mow at a higher length.

☞ **Use Low-Maintenance Turf Grasses:** Plant Buffalo grass, centipede grass, Bahia grass, fine fescue mixes, or other drought-tolerant, slow-growing turf grasses where regionally appropriate.

☞ **Switch to a Grass-Free Lawn:** Use clover or other mowable groundcovers as lawns.

☞ **Reduce or Replace Lawns:** Plant a mixture of trees, shrubs, and perennials to replace lawns where they're not needed. Replace some of the lawn with vegetables-they CAN be beautiful.



An incredible, edible front yard.



Sedum and clover substitute for turf grass in a lawn in Maryland.



Speak to local groups.

### How to Help

☞ Write about organic lawn care and alternatives to lawns in online and print publications.

☞ Speak to local groups such as garden clubs, chambers of commerce, your community association, and your local government.

☞ Ask your local environmental groups, your state's extension service, and garden club to write about lawn reform issues.

☞ Start replacing your own lawn one section at a time with more sustainable choices.

☞ Get listed as a supporter of lawn reform at [www.lawnreform.org](http://www.lawnreform.org).



Choose sustainable plants to replace your lawn.

## The Lawn Reform Coalition:

A group of gardening and environmental advocates who promote:

- 🌿 **Regionally appropriate lawn species**
- 🌿 **Eco-friendly care for all lawns**
- 🌿 **Design ideas to reduce or replace lawns**



Members of the Coalition:

- **Shirley Bovshow**
- **Tom Christopher**
- **Tom Engelman**
- **Billy Goodnick**
- **Evelyn Hadden**
- **Susan Harris**
- **Susan Morrison**
- **Ginny Stibolt**
- **Paul Tukey**

[www.lawnreform.org](http://www.lawnreform.org)

## Grass Isn't Always Greener

But you can manage it more sustainably or replace it with low-care alternatives.



Bonsai fescue and *Leymus condensatus* 'Canyon Prince', a CA native selection.



Coreopsis meadow in Santa Barbara



Rain lily meadow in Key West