

## Want to Save Water? Try These Eco-Friendly Lawn Tips

In our culture, a lush green lawn has been held up as a sign of homeownership success and prosperity. However, the practice is shockingly wasteful. Studies on water use suggest that the average home uses about [48 gallons of water](#) per day to manage lawn and garden irrigation. That figure is lower in wetter climates, but in more arid areas, up to sixty percent of a household's water usage might go toward the lawn.

Even if you set aside the ecological implications of this kind of water use, this is a huge drain on your wallet. Transforming your lawn into a more eco-friendly space will go a long way toward lowering your water bill and giving you more room in your budget. Here's a look at some effective ways to create an eco-friendlier lawn.

### **Start with the Budget**

Before you can dive into figuring out which type of eco-friendly lawn is right for you, you need to get a sense of your budget. All of these methods cost money, although many spread the cost out over the span of several years. Still, however, it's important to know how much and, ideally, have it ready to go from the start.

One way you might be able to make this work is through the FHA Energy Efficient Mortgage program. This is especially useful if you're still [on the market](#) for a property and you know you'll want to make your space environmentally friendly. This program works the costs of energy efficiency upgrades into your new mortgage. You can even refinance into this program if you already own a home you'd like to renovate.

### **Less Thirsty Grass**

If you love the lush lawn look, you may still be able to achieve it with a [less thirsty grass species](#). Consider drought-resistant grasses such as tall or fine fescue. These have low water needs, so they're well suited to dry climates. That said, they can suffer in rain-heavy climates, since they need the ground to [properly dry out](#) between watering in order to avoid developing a fungus. At the end of the day, it's always best to pick a grass type that suits your area's weather patterns so you're working with, rather than against, nature.

### **Minimize Grass Through Landscaping**

Another solid way to minimize wasted water is to landscape your lawn to minimize grass. For inspiration, take a look at some of the designs for ["English Garden"-style yards](#). These maximize flowers, bushes, and native ground covers in order to reduce — or entirely eliminate — grass coverage. Use plants that will work with [your weather patterns](#) in order to prevent your garden from still using excess water.

You can also use some of your yard space for a food garden. This is a great way to make the water you do use for your yard really work for you since you'll get the money back in fresh fruits, veggies, and herbs. Before you do this, however, take a look at local zoning laws and HOA guidelines: Some areas have rules prohibiting front-yard food gardens.

### **Grass Alternatives**

Finally, consider replacing your lawn with a more eco-friendly form of ground cover. Native clover, wild violets, and other ground covers that grow naturally in your area can still give you

the lush green aesthetic without nearly the water consumption. Moreover, most of these are [no-mow varieties](#), meaning you'll save on gas (and time) as well.

Once again, check with local zoning laws before you dive into this process. HOAs in particular often require a grass lawn, and you can wind up with nasty fees if you make a change that's against the rules. If your area allows for it, however, this can be a fantastic way to cut down on the work and water your yard requires.

Grass is seen as the default lawn covering, but it's far from your only option. Explore other types of lawns to find the one that suits your budget and schedule, all while protecting the environment!

*Interested in using shrubs or trees in your alternative lawn? Check out [our sales page](#). You can also call us at 507-765-3878 Ext. 3.*

This article is brought to you by Lisa Walker, Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District Outreach Volunteer.

Check out the links below for more water conservation tips!

[Water Conservation: Why Saving Water is Important](#)

[How conserving water affects your wallet: 5 ways](#)

[How Water Conservation Saves Energy and Reduces Greenhouse Gas](#)

[32 Ways to Conserve Water at Home](#)

[10 Water-Saving Devices You Can Install Yourself](#)

[How to Choose a Low-flow Shower Head](#)

[The Homeowner's Guide to Energy Efficient Mortgages](#)

[13 Ways to Implement Water Conservation in Your Garden](#)

[What Is Xeriscaping?](#)