



## **Beautiful No-Mow Yards: 50 Amazing Lawn Alternatives**

*By Evelyn J. Hadden*

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**Beautiful No-Mow Yards: 50 Amazing Lawn Alternatives** By Evelyn J. Hadden

**With *Beautiful No-Mow Yards*, you can transform your lawn into a livable garden and bring nature's beauty into your life!**

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.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"... hands down one of the best garden writers I've had the pleasure of reading. I have a large library of gardening books, most with excellent content, but few rival the elegant and graceful prose of *Beautiful No-Mow Yards*." - (*Garden Up!* co-author Susan Morrison, *Blue Planet Garden Blog*)

"... an abundance of beautiful and inspiring photos that clearly illustrate all of the author's suggestions. Readers who are intent on eliminating the traditional lawn will be delighted by the endless possibilities they will find in this timely publication." (Allan Becker, *BookPleasures*)

"A well-written book, appealing and generous with information, and worth adding to the library." (Jill Billington, *Gardens Illustrated*)

"*Beautiful No-Mow Yards* showcases numerous eco-friendly alternatives to that voracious green turf... With drought and the likelihood of hosepipe bans forcing many of us to reconsider our gardening strategies, this book is a useful addition to our library." (Sarah Milliken, *Garden Design Journal*)

"Novice and expert gardeners will find this well-written and engaging work, enhanced with color photos and other illustrations, useful for all sizes of projects." —*Library Journal*

"With refreshing zeal, the author urges us to rethink our yards, helping us to see that a lawnless or a less-lawn landscape can fascinate us with its beauty, complexity, and variability." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Hadden demonstrates how creatively rewarding it can be to forgo the fescue." —*Booklist*

"Deeply inspirational to anyone looking to make their yards more interesting, more beautiful, and more wildlife-friendly." —*Garden Rant*

"It has it all: A compelling rationale for ignoring the siren song of the 'perfect' lawn, inspirational stories from gardeners and designers enthusiastically embracing this timely trend, and step-by-step instructions for creating easy-care, planet-friendly patches of paradise." —*Fine Gardening*

"Hands down one of the best garden writers I've had the pleasure of reading. I have a large library of gardening books, most with excellent content, but few rival the elegant and graceful prose of *Beautiful No-Mow Yards*." —*Blue Planet Garden Blog*

"Deeply inspirational to anyone looking to make their yards more interesting, more beautiful, and more wildlife-friendly." —*greatgardenspeakers.com*

"Whether you are a designer, home gardener, wild-life enthusiast, or environmentalist, *Beautiful No-Mow Yards* is a must-have addition for your gardening library." —*Lawn Reform Coalition*

#### From the Author

Hi. I'm Evelyn Hadden, and I wrote *Beautiful No-Mow Yards* to show you that you have a lot of alternatives

to that boring, lifeless lawn.

Part 1 offers **design inspiration**, with a chapter devoted to each of the following: shade gardens, living carpets, prairie and meadow gardens, patios, rain gardens, play areas, ponds, xeric gardens, stroll gardens, edible gardens, and smarter lawns. In these chapters you'll meet gardeners from coast to coast and learn from their successes.

For instance, Marte planted a different groundcover under each of her trees. Tom and Karen dine outdoors all summer with a lively prairie garden as the floor show. Jay fills his woodland garden with nonstop color, and showy natives bloom under Michelle's mature maple trees. Lisa replaced her whole back lawn with a pond. Julie's family built a patio for pennies. Roy and Rosadelia grow food in their elegant front yard. Ann and Roger's low-care lawn uses half the water of standard turfgrass, while Peggy only mows hers once a year.

You may mow to give your kids a place to run, but for healthy brains and bodies, they also need to climb, to make their own dens, and to interact with plants and animals. Learn from the experts how to find and make creativity-boosting play areas for your kids.

Now that you're inspired, Part 2 shows you **how to get there**, helping you convert your lawn to topsoil, add life to your design, and make sure that mother nature does more of the work than you do. It even gives tips for making your lawn more self-sustaining. Part 3 introduces 100 **choice ground-layer plants**, with clues to their behavior to help you site and combine them successfully.

Not all the plants, designs, or strategies presented throughout the book will work for every site or region, but you'll find enough information to make more educated choices about what might work best for your particular site and your style of gardening.

The message of this book, in a nutshell, is that no-mow yards support more life -- not only wildlife, but your family's life outdoors. That's my wish for all of us.

#### About the Author

Evelyn Hadden writes and speaks about nature-friendly, soul-satisfying landscapes. She founded the informational website LessLawn in 2001. Her garden memoir *Apprentice to a Garden* chronicles the joys, challenges, and life lessons of transforming her urban yard into a naturalistic landscape. The photo-rich *Shrink Your Lawn: Design ideas for any landscape* presents many ideas and illustrations from her talks and won a silver medal from Independent Publisher's 2009 Living Now Book Awards.

Evelyn is a founding member of the national Lawn Reform Coalition, a resource for ecologically sound lawns and lawn alternatives. She gardens in Minnesota and travels across the country visiting gardens and speaking to other gardeners about eco-friendly landscaping with less lawn.

#### Users Review

##### From reader reviews:

##### Linda Musselwhite:

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**Christine Curnutt:**

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