

3 Steps To Replacing Your Lawn



Step One: Identify your type of lawn.

Lawn grasses are divided into two categories: warm season and cool season. If you aren't sure which kind you have, dig up a sample and take it to your local nursery for identification.

Step Two: Kill your lawn.

Cool season lawn (Fescue, Rye) may be killed with a post-emergent nonselective herbicide (active ingredient: glyphosate) while it's actively growing (March-May and September-October), then raked up off the soil surface. Cool season grasses are clumping in form and can also be cut at the root level to remove. For herbicide products available to homeowners, contact your local nursery professional.

Warm season lawn (Bermuda, St. Augustine, Zoysia) is most effectively eliminated with a post-emergent nonselective translocating herbicide during its active growing season (May-September) for the Central Valley area. If you choose to eliminate a Bermudagrass lawn, you must effectively kill all shoots and roots. To treat with a nonselective herbicide, avoid mowing for several weeks and spray grass per product label when winds are calm. Continue watering grass as usual. Reapplication is recommended in two week intervals until no further growth occurs. Once total control is gained, rake soil surface or till to remove dead plant parts.



To kill your lawn without chemicals, a process called solarization can be effective by using radiant energy from the sun. Start solarization during the hottest weeks of the year by first mowing your lawn very short, clearing the area of debris, leveling the soil surface, and irrigating to a soil depth of 12 inches. Next, apply hole-free, clear plastic sheeting over the grass. Then, secure the plastic around the edge of the turfgrass and leave on for 6-8 weeks. Don't forget to recycle the plastic when you are done.

Step Three: Replace your lawn with water-wise ornamental grasses or groundcover.

Rake, scrape, or shovel your dead grass away! Then, amend your new planting area with compost to improve drainage and water retention. Choose your water-wise lawn alternative using the plant guide in this brochure. After planting, weed-block fabric should be laid over the soil and top dressed with mulch to achieve weed control and water retention.



Enjoy potentially lower water bills and less maintenance with your new water-conserving lifestyle!



FOLLOW THE OUTDOOR WATERING SCHEDULE

The outdoor watering schedule changes twice a year. For a current schedule, go to www.fresno.gov/water. To report water waste, or learn about our FREE landscape consultation services, call Water Conservation at 621-5480. You can also email us at waterconservation@fresno.gov. Call for Spanish or Hmong translation.



Water Conservation Program
1910 E. University
Fresno, CA 93703-2988

For more information contact:
the City of Fresno Water Conservation Program
(559) 621-5480
Email: Waterconservation@fresno.gov
or visit
www.fresno.gov/water.

CREATING GREEN GRASS ALTERNATIVES

How to Replace THIRSTY LAWN WITH WATER-WISE GROUNDCOVER & ORNAMENTAL GRASSES



SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR MOWED LAWN AND HELLO *To A New Green Look*

Fresno's suburban landscape has often been identified by its green lawns. Unfortunately, green lawns are not suitable to this climate as they require an incredible amount of water. That's why it makes sense to make the switch from lawn to water-wise plants.

The good news is you can have a beautiful water-conserving garden that requires little maintenance, simply by eliminating your lawn and choosing alternative lawn options. Lawn alternatives are plentiful and include colorful and interesting water-conserving perennials and ground covers, as well as pavers, mulches, sitting areas, and objects of art.

Within this pamphlet, you'll find many different alternatives to lawn. From walkable grasslike plants similar to what you may already have, to nonwalkable groundcover, and everything in between – when it comes to reinventing your lawn, the sky is the limit!



Water-Wise Groundcover and Ornamental Grass Guide **FOR WATER-WISE SPECIES**

WALKABLE

COMMON NAME

Botanical Name

“Grasslike”

- Buffalograss *Buchloe dactyloides*
- Blue Grama Grass *Bouteloua gracilis*
- California Meadow Sedge *Carex pansa*

“Non-grasslike”

- Woolly Yarrow *Achillea tomentosa*
- Red Spike Ice Plant *Cephalophyllum 'Red Spike'*
- Knotweed *Persicaria capitata*
- Creeping Thyme *Thymus serpyllum*
- Woolly Thyme *Thymus pseudolanuginosus*

LIGHT FOOT TRAFFIC TOLERATED

COMMON NAME

Botanical Name

“Grasslike”

- Lily Turf *Liriope muscari 'Silvery Sunproof'*
- Berkeley Sedge *Carex divulsa*
- Catlin Sedge *Carex texensis*

“Non-grasslike”

- Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*
- Red Apple *Aptenia cordifolia 'Red Apple'*
- Snow-in-Summer *Cerastium tomentosum*
- Dwarf Plumbago *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*
- Santa Barbara Daisy *Erigeron karvinskianus*
- Gazania *Gazania spp.*
- Lippia *Phyla nodiflora*
- Lamb's Ear *Stachys byzantina*
- Ground Morning Glory *Convolvulus mauritanicusnon*

NON WALKABLE

COMMON NAME

Botanical Name

“Grasslike”

- Blue Fescue *Festuca glauca*
- Creeping Wild Rye *Leymus triticoides*
- Mexican Feather Grass *Nassella (Stipa) tenuissima**
- Little Bunny Dwarf Fountain Grass *Pennisetum alopecuroides*

“Non-grasslike”

- Emerald Carpet Manzanita *Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet'*
- Ground Cover Manzanita *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi 'Pt. Reyes'*
- African Daisy *Arctotis spp.*
- Creeping Saltbush *Atriplex semibaccata*
- Silver Mound Artemesia *Artemisia schmidtiana 'Silver Mound'*
- Lowfast Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster dammei 'Lowfast'*
- Red Spike Ice Plant *Cephalophyllum 'Red Spike'*
- Rosea Ice Plant *Drosanthemum floribundum*
- Blue Carpet Juniper *Juniperus horizontalis 'Wiltonii'*
- Ground Cover Juniper *Juniperus procumbens 'Nana'*
- Trailing Lantana *Lantana montevidensis*
- Prostrate Myoporum *Myoporum parvifolium*
- Catmint *Nepeta x faassenii*
- Oregano *Origanum laevigatum*
- Ornamental Oregano *Origanum rotundifolium*
- Germander *Teucrium X lucidrys (chamaedrys)*
- Prostrate Rosemary *Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus'*
- Lavender Cotton *Santolina chamaecyparissus*
- Green Santolina *Santolina rosmarinifolia*
- Stonecrop *Sedum spp.*
- Hen and Chicks *Echeveria elegans*
- Hen and Chicks *Echeveria x imbricata*

*readily reseeds

Saving Water **DRIP BY DRIP**

Whether you change out your lawn with water-wise groundcover or you're just looking to become more water wise with your current landscape, drip irrigation is one of the most efficient irrigation delivery systems available. Drip irrigation delivers water slowly to the plant's roots, allowing water to penetrate into the root zone with little run off, evaporation, or wind and overspray water loss.



Check with your local home improvement store, nursery, or irrigation supply store for a full selection of drip irrigation supplies and grab the City of Fresno Water Conservation Program's pamphlet on drip irrigation – available online at www.fresno.gov/water/

