

# Lawns and Unwanted Spaces

Tired of mowing, watering, or just staring at that patch of unused grass? This guide will help you naturally transition away from big lawns provide suggestions lawns and other unwanted spaces.

Many areas have lawns that are not being used, and would be better for native plantings. Here's how to turn dull, high-maintenance lawns and other unwanted areas into something more meaningful and cost-effective.

## What is the goal/intended use of the lawn or unwanted space?

- Low-maintenance beauty
- Functional or productive use
- Habitat creation
- Hangout or relaxation space

## What is the best/realistic timing and the best schedule for success?

- Spring or fall plantings best
- Get chip drop before planting
- Invasive plant removal varies by species

## What is the soil and light like?

- Decide if you have dry, moist or wet soil
- Check for compacted soils or soils that contain construction debris
- Consider if you have full sun, part shade, or shade

## How will it be managed?

- Make it accessible for weeding
- Plan for 1 to 2 years of watering

### Go Natives! Website

[Seattle Public Utilities.  
Natural Yard Care  
Guide](https://www.seattlepublicutilities.com/natural-yard-care-guide)

[PNW Lawn  
Alternatives, Garden  
By the Sea](https://pnw.lawnalternatives.com/garden-by-the-sea)

[Lawn Conversion to  
Agriculture, West  
Multnomah SWCD](https://www.westmultnomahswcd.org/lawn-conversion-to-agriculture)

[https://gonativesnur  
sery.com/](https://gonativesnursery.com/)



# Plants for Lawns and Unwanted Spaces



**kinnikinnick**

*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

Sun-part shade, dry



**Roemer's fescue**

*Festuca roemerii*

Sun-part shade, dry-moist



**sword fern**

*Polystichum munitum*

Part shade-shade, dry-moist



**beach strawberry**

*Fragaria chiloensis*

Sun-part shade, dry



**wood-sorrel**

*Oxalis oregana*

Part shade-shade, dry-moist



**Idaho blue-eyed grass**

*Sisyrinchium idahoense*

Sun-part shade, moist-wet



**camas**

*Camassia quamash*

Sun-part shade, dry-moist



**self-heal**

*Prunella vulgaris*

Sun-part shade, moist



**yarrow**

*Achillea millefolium*

Sun-part shade, dry-moist