

COLORADO WATER

LIVE LIKE YOU LOVE IT

TRANSFORM YOUR YARD TO A COLORADO LANDSCAPE

Why should I replace part of my lawn?



LAWNS ARE WATER HOGS

Lawns use up to 50% of a household's daily water use. Replacing a portion of your lawn is one of the best things you can do to save water.



THERE ARE BETTER ALTERNATIVES

The thirsty lawn species most commonly seen in Colorado typically use 5x more water than native and water-wise landscape alternatives.



LUSH LAWNS DON'T SUIT COLORADO

Most areas of your lawn are non-functional and simply aesthetic. It's a bad look for a semi-arid state like Colorado.



PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Lawns use chemicals like fertilizer that are harmful to our environment - polluting local waterways and harming living organisms.



WATER IS SCARCE

Our water supplies are becoming more and more constrained due to drought/climate change, population growth and other factors. It's time to start making changes to preserve our water resources.

What should I replace it with?



WATER-WISE LANDSCAPES

Replace unused portions of your lawn with a water-wise landscape. This includes native plants, Colorado-friendly plants, and permeable materials like rock and mulch.



Native landscapes provide natural habitat for pollinators like hummingbirds, bees and butterflies.



NATIVE GRASS ALTERNATIVES

If you love the look of lawns, consider replacing your thirsty turfgrass with a water-wise alternative like Buffalograss or Blue Gramma.



They give you that lush lawn look with just 1/3 of the water.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

USE IT OR LOSE IT

Identify which portions of your lawn are actually being used.



Areas frequented by pets, children, etc. are okay to keep.

MAKE A PLAN

Plan your water-wise landscape in 3 easy steps:

- 1 Set a budget. Consider the costs of plants, soil, mulch, irrigation equipment, and any professional design or installation assistance you'll need.
- 2 Pick your plants. Visit [PlantSelect.org](https://www.plantselect.org) or [conps.org](https://www.conps.org) for native and Colorado-friendly plant recommendations and garden themes.
- 3 Design your garden. [PlantSelect.org](https://www.plantselect.org) has free designs you can download. Or find a Sustainable Landscape Management (SLM) certified contractor at [alcc.com](https://www.alcc.com). You can also access pre-planned gardens from High Country Gardens or Resource Central.



HOW CAN I REMOVE MY LAWN?

REMOVING UNUSED PORTIONS OF YOUR LAWN IS ONE OF THE BEST THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT. You can hire a landscape contractor or DIY with one of these two methods:

PHYSICAL REMOVAL:

Use a rototiller or a shovel to remove grass from the roots. This method is best for small areas without irrigation systems. It's quick and gets rid of your lawn immediately.



SHEET MULCHING:

Cut your grass very short then put down two layers of cardboard or thick newspaper. Cover it with compost and 4-6 inches of organic mulch, then saturate it with water. Let it sit for several months, keeping it moist. Once the grass has died you can plant right into the new, rich soil (without removing the grass).



NEED A LITTLE MORE HELP?

Visit your water provider's website for possible rebates and incentives to replace your lawn with a water-wise landscape. Local nonprofits like [Colorado Native Plant Society](https://www.conps.org) (conps.org) and [Plant Select](https://www.plantselect.org) (plantselect.org) are a great place to find free water-wise gardening resources.



[lovecoloradowater.org](https://www.lovecoloradowater.org)

[utilitywebsite.org](https://www.utilitywebsite.org)

