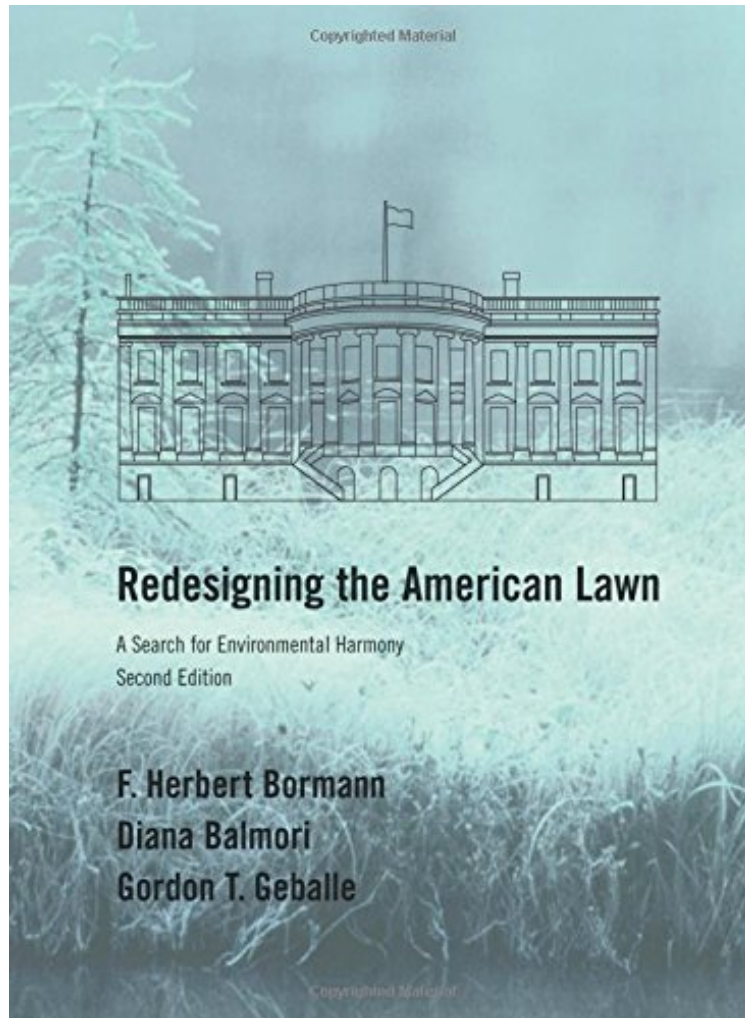


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Redesigning the American Lawn: A Search for Environmental Harmony, Second Edition

F. Herbert Bormann, Diana Balmori, Gordon T. Geballe

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F. Herbert Bormann, Diana Balmori, Gordon T. Geballe : Redesigning the American Lawn: A Search for Environmental Harmony, Second Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Redesigning the American Lawn: A Search for Environmental Harmony, Second Edition:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. challenges the lawn mentality By harborsparrow This book takes a long, hard look at the industry surrounding lawn care, with its chemicals and fertilizers, and asks whether this is necessary for a good life, and examines the history of how Americans came to value these artificially cultivated huge expanses of mown grass. It also details several case studies where suburban folks successfully challenged the

neighborhood norms and morphed a manicured lawn into a more natural hodgepodge of plant life that is better for the environment, still lovely, and much less work and cost and waste to maintain. Even though this book is decades old, the information in it is more relevant now than ever. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Changed Actions By Mike Pearce I enjoyed this book and now have a new appreciation for what I'm seeing when I walk through my neighborhood. Some homeowners water continuously, some have pesticides sprayed (Caution signs), some have no lawns, some have brown lawns. This book actually changed my actions: I bought lower nitrogen fertilizer for my fall lawn care. It was three times more expensive than the 26% nitrogen option but I decided to make a conscious environmental decision based on my reading of this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Bob G. Gave this one as a gift to son in law who is a landscape architect.

The authors in this book argue that our dedication to maintaining beautiful lawns is contributing to the serious environmental problems facing the planet, and they offer strategies for creating and caring for aesthetically pleasing and ecologically sound lawns. This new edition updates the original text and adds a chapter and illustrations showing what progress has been made in the ecological management of landscapes over the past decade. Reviews of the first edition: An extremely readable summation of the origins of the addiction to lawns, and of the environmental reasons why Americans should kick the habit. Anne Raver, New York Times Book Review A manual for improving a large part of the American environment while reducing pollution, saving Americans a large amount of money, and beautifying the landscape. Edward O. Wilson

From Publishers Weekly Lawns are celebrated in America as a mark of civility and achievement: nature bowing to the well-gloved human hand and the lawn mower. But American fanaticism about the well-kept family turf does not always serve the best interests either of the turf or of the American. A product, in part, of a 1991 Yale graduate seminar, "The American Lawn," this work of scholarship and suggestion seeks to improve our attitudes and our front yards by cutting down on pesticide use, replacing power mowers with the hand-held kind, adopting types of grasses best suited to one's habitat and maybe even allowing a true-blue meadow to develop, clover and all. Lawns are impositions of will, not of nature, and the idea of returning will to nature--or collaborating with it more respectfully than we have--will not appeal to everyone. But the idea is sensible and fair, and this book--also sensible and fair--may, with luck, help to spread it around. Bormann is an emeritus professor of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University; Balmori is a lecturer at Yale; Geballe is assistant dean of the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal As the title indicates, the emphasis here is on shaping a new aesthetic for a new ecological ethic. The idea is not to do away with the lawn but to design and manage it to reduce its present damage to the environment. However, the authors (Yale Univ. Sch. of Forestry and Environmental Studies) also propose two alternatives to the conventional lawn: "freedom lawns," which would allow natural, unrestricted growth of grasses and low-growing herbaceous plants, and total replacement with new landscape designs. Rede signing is wide-ranging, balanced, and imaginative, but, unfortunately, short on practical details on implementation. This is a good buy for academic and larger public libraries, but don't throw away your other lawn-care books. For a popular book on the same topic, see Sara Stein's *Noah's Garden*, LJ 4/1/93.--Ed.- Richard Shotwell, MRA Laboratories Inc., North Adams, Mass. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. "extremely readable . . . the origins of the addiction to lawns, and why Americans should kick the habit." -- Anne Raver, New York Times Book