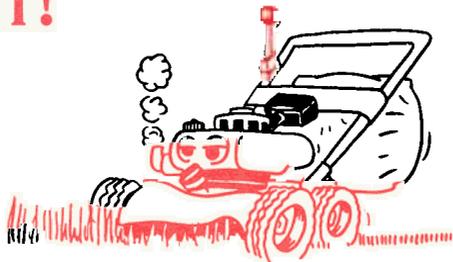


LET THE LAWN MOWER RUST!



If green lawns are allowed to grow, they evolve into a meadow, then a thicket, then a grove, and finally a forest.

Bayard Webster of the *New York Times* reported that each tree can evaporate as much as forty gallons of moisture daily, creating an initial mist layer which gathers mass as it moves eastward to become rain. Trees are essential in protecting the rain cycle.

These same trees are critical for the oxygen cycle of the planet.

Unmowed areas are a temperature buffer, since trees can make a 30° difference in summer coolness, and soften winter bite. Unmowed areas prevent soil erosion.

Non-mowing would save billions of gallons of fuel, and billions of hours

of human energy, and would avoid 75,000 lawnmower-related accidents yearly.

An unchopped lawn becomes a privacy screen, and evolves into a wildlife sanctuary, providing resident and migrating birds with food, twigs for nests, and shelter from cold and heat.

Mowing, on the other hand, destroys the habitat, if not the eggs, of ground-nesting birds. Mowing kills butterflies and fireflies and bumblebees, and toads and frogs. According to Luther Burbank and Dr. Bose, knighted by the Queen of England for his research in plant feelings, mowing destroys sentient plants.

If not mowing seems like a drastic step, grow a privacy screen of evergreens, trellises with vines, or

pachysandra and other plants that do not require mowing. Include fruit trees in your yard to provide free food for yourself and the birds and animals. Dr. Faust, former chief of the USDA fruit laboratory, says apple trees can drop as much as two tons of fruit per acre.

The National Wildlife Federation has a backyard “no-mow” program for wildlife habitat. IBM stopped mowing 2/3 of the area around their corporate headquarters in New York. The U.S. Army, Rock Creek Park in Washington, and a number of established institutions are rethinking the waste of mowing.

Around the country, people are successfully winning lawsuits protecting their right to let their lawns grow. An Akron, Ohio, attorney has donated time to support this environmental freedom. Lawsuits challenging compulsory mowing have been based on many legal grounds, including the first amendment right of freedom of expression, the religious freedom to not kill sentient life, and the property owner's aesthetic prerogative to determine his or her own style of beauty.

Try it! You'll like it!
(Thanks to Marvyne “The Beach Lady” Betsch, *American Beach*, Florida, for this item.)