



# To Mow or NOT To Mow.....

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...THAT is the question. Aside from lawncare companies and my mother-in-law, I've encountered very few people who enjoy mowing lawns. Especially when you would rather be on the lake enjoying the evening sunset. The last few years of drought have led many to wonder if all the watering, mowing, and fertilizing is indeed worth it. There really isn't an alternative, is there?

A recent trend has been a move to low- and no-mow lawns using fescue grasses. This low maintenance turf alternative functions like a typical lawn (and can look similar too), but it is made up of drought-tolerant species that require less water, fertilizer, and mowing than regular Kentucky bluegrass. Most of these low maintenance lawns include a mix of fine and/or tall fescues. There are a variety of grasses to choose from.

To learn more about low maintenance lawns, check out [University of MN Extension](#) and [Blue Thumb](#) websites. You can learn how to choose the right fescues for your site, how to terminate your existing lawn, prepare your area for planting, and establish a lawn that will help you spend more time by the lake than by your lawn mower. Even my mother-in-law can't argue with that!



*Strong Creeping Red Fescue - Looks like regular Kentucky bluegrass.*



*A mixture of strong creeping red fescue, slender creeping red fescue, Chewings fescue, and hard fescue maintained as a minimal-to-no mow low-input turfgrass site.*



**Tired of WEEDS in the Chain? Designate a 5- to 10-foot buffer strip adjacent to any water body and apply a no-phosphorus fertilizer (or better yet, NO fertilizer) to this strip.**

**Too much nitrogen and phosphorus in the water causes algae to grow faster than ecosystems can handle.**

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