

# ECOLOGICAL LAWNS AND THE STEPS TO CREATE YOUR OWN AT HOME

An ecological lawn is a type of lawn composed of low-growing native and perennial plants. It offers many benefits, including being easy to maintain and vibrant in colour, reducing the need for mowing and chemical treatments, and supporting biodiversity and numerous pollinators.

## CREATING YOUR OWN: HOW TO GET STARTED

### STEP 1:

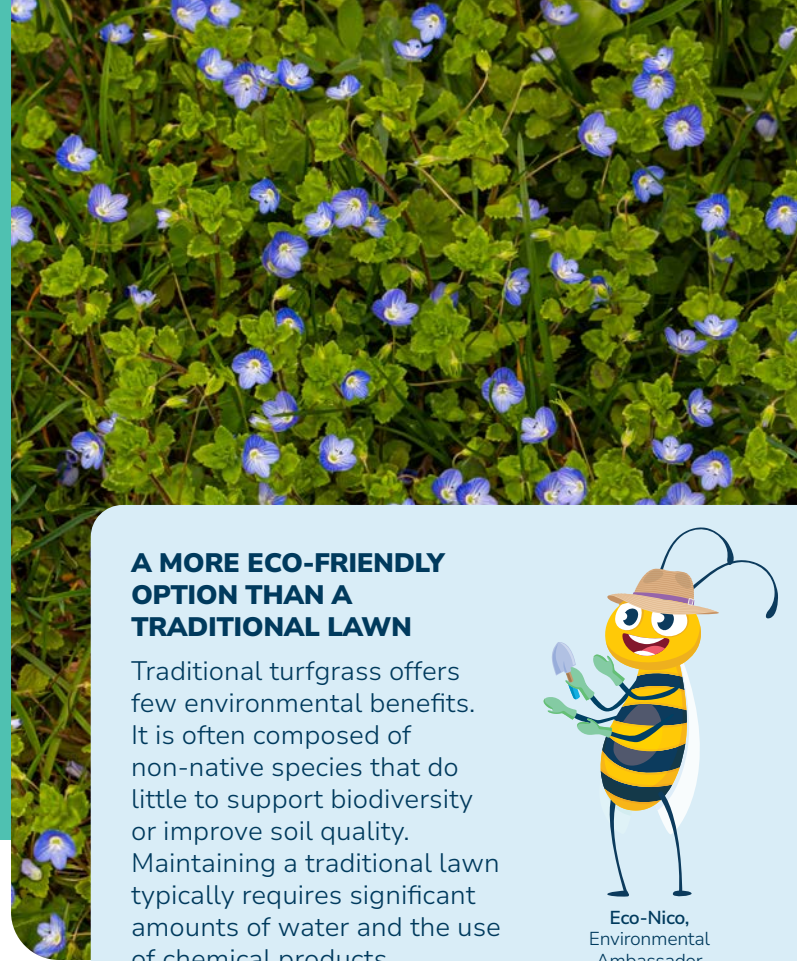
#### Prepare the Area for Planting

- Remove your existing turfgrass lawn. There are different effective methods of removing your lawn before planting your new garden, including digging under the roots with a spade (learn more on our website: [ptclr.ca/ecological-garden](http://ptclr.ca/ecological-garden)).

### STEP 3:

#### Pick Your Native Plants

- Before planting, consider the purpose of the lawn and how the area will be used, as some native species are more sensitive to heavy foot traffic.
- Choose from the native species recommended on the back of the pamphlet. (Full list on our website: [ptclr.ca/ecologicalgarden](http://ptclr.ca/ecologicalgarden))



### A MORE ECO-FRIENDLY OPTION THAN A TRADITIONAL LAWN

Traditional turfgrass offers few environmental benefits. It is often composed of non-native species that do little to support biodiversity or improve soil quality. Maintaining a traditional lawn typically requires significant amounts of water and the use of chemical products.

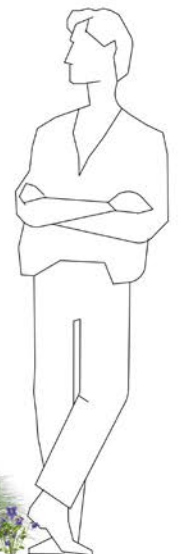


Eco-Nico,  
Environmental  
Ambassador

### STEP 2:

#### Improve the Topsoil

- Add a layer of about 20 cm (8 in) of well-draining soil, such as sandy or coarse-textured soil, to the planting area.
- It is recommended to mix in compost to help enrich the earth.



SIDE VIEW OF THE LAWN WITH EACH PLANT  
AT ITS MAXIMUM FLOWERING SIZE

## STEP 4:

### Plant Your Ecological Lawn

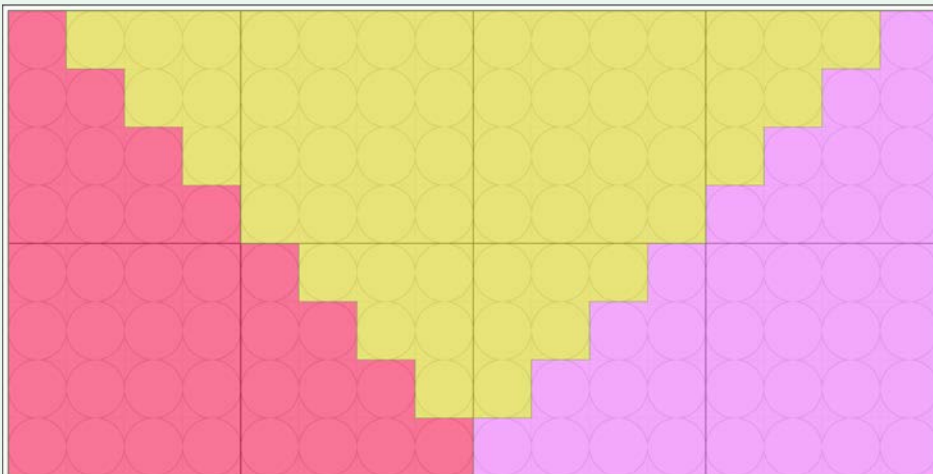
- To create a natural and authentic-looking ecological lawn, plant the vegetation in clusters.
- You can establish your garden by either seeding it or by using plant plugs.



## STEP 5:

### Maintain Your Ecological Lawn





- During the first year, regular watering and removal of invasive species is necessary to help the lawn establish strong roots. If you are using a mechanical or automatic sprinkler system, be sure to respect the municipal watering periods (consult our website: [ptclr.ca/water-by-law](https://ptclr.ca/water-by-law)).
- After the initial establishment, your lawn will require minimal maintenance and no chemical treatments.
- Verify how often to mow the lawn depending on the native species that have been planted. According to the nuisance by-law, your lawn should not exceed 20 cm (8 in) in height.



EXAMPLE OF PLANT ARRANGEMENT ON A LAWN MEASURING 4 M X 2 M (12 FT X 6 FT)  
(Each little grid square is 25 cm (10 in))

#### LIST OF PLANTS USED

Select plants from the recommended list that match the site's sun conditions and provide staggered bloom times to ensure continuous flowering from early spring through fall.

-  Microgreens to be planted
-  *Fragaria virginiana*  
Virginia Strawberry
-  *Viola cucullata*  
Marsh Blue Violet
-  *Carex pensylvanica*  
Pennsylvania Sedge



Scan the QR code to discover the full list of suggested plants for ecological lawns, our glossary of gardening terms, and other types of gardens.

