



Lawn to Garden

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Reasons to convert space

1. Stop the lawn addiction
 - a. Lawns use more water than any other crop and cover 2% of US land
 - b. 1/2 of potable water in western US used on landscapes
 - c. Changing climate,/limited water resources
2. Change inputs: less water, less chemicals/fertilizers, less time
3. Xeriscape, waterwise, watersmart, sustainable (not "zero-scape" or vast seas of rock/plastic)
4. Ecological/Wildlife: Birds, pollinators, butterflies, hummingbirds
5. Aesthetics, increase property value
6. Food production

New Space

- Vegetable/food production
- Meadow/Prairie planting
- Low maintenance landscape with a mix of trees/shrubs/perennials
- Seasonal changes

Removal of existing lawn is always satisfying!

- Sheet mulch or lasagna method-two layers of cardboard, 4" of compost, sit for a few months to a season and plant directly into
- Plastic-Black plastic kills life in soil/clear plastic better (mow short, heavy watering, plastic down for 6 weeks, no need to remove dead grass, plant directly into)
- Sod cutter (physical removal)-Disturbs soil structure, brings up weed seeds
- Spraying-Plant within a couple weeks
- Control runoff

Site Analysis & Conceptual Design

- Know your site: observe sun, water, slope, wind, views, soil types, elevation, etc
- Drought tolerant plants that thrive in helena
- Boulevard plantings

Plant Selection & Planting

- Plant size: plugs (plug packs), containers, trees
- Layout
- Site prep
- Weed barrier
- Planting
- Irrigation/watering

Future Maintenance

- Weeds
- Mowing prairie once a year
- Mulching landscape every couple years if needed
- Irrigation: drip/microspray best, water for the first couple seasons; monthly in future during hot months; nice to have irrigation in future to use as needed

Resources

GARDENWERKS WEBSITE

- *Plant Finder Tool:* <https://plants.gardenwerks.com/12070021/>
 - *Still adding plants; native section is lacking right now!*
- *Resources Page:* <https://www.gardenwerks.com/resources>
 - *Planting Instructions & Care for New Plantings*
 - *Growing Guides*
 - *LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE BASICS*
 - *FALL GARDENING TIPS*
 - *GRASS & WILDFLOWER SEED*
 - *GRASS SEED MIXES*
 - *Native Plants*
 - *LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS*
 - *MONTANA NATIVE PLANTS OVERVIEW*
 - *HELENA NATIVE PLANT LIST*
 - *Water Wise Gardening*
 - *XERISCAPING IN MONTANA*
 - *MT WATERWISE PLANTS*
 - *CITY OF BOZEMAN: WATERSMART PLANTING GUIDE*
 - *Recommended Plants*
 - *POLLINATOR GARDEN*
 - *HUMMINGBIRD PLANTS*
 - *DEER RESISTANT PLANTS*
 - *PLANTS FOR TOUGH SPOTS: CLAY SOIL, DRY SHADE & SLOPES*
 - *Montana Hardy Trees*
 - *TREES: SHADE, FLOWERING & EVERGREENS*
 - *PLANTING A WINDBREAK*
 - *BOULEVARD TREES*
 - *TREE RECOMMENDATIONS BY GROWING CONDITION*

OTHER RESOURCES

- *City of Helena - Waterwise Helena*
- *City of Bozeman - Water Conservation - Outdoor Efficiency*
- *Montana Native Plant Society*
- *MSU Extension*
- *Colorado State University Extension*
- *Colorado WaterWise*
- *Plant Select (Plant Search & Planting Designs)*