

How do you mow your lawn?  
What are the negative environmental impacts? Are there alternatives that reduce or eliminate these impacts?

## Basic Facts

1. Larger mowers consume more fossil fuels.
2. Approximately 580 million gallons of gas are used each year for power mowers; especially riding mowers.
3. A study of air pollution in California found that mower emissions per year equaled that produced by 3,500,000 automobiles driven 16,000 miles each.
4. Noise pollution is a significant irritant for many people and has a negative impact on wildlife, particularly during their breeding season.
5. Regular mowing reduces wildlife habitat, destroys nesting wildlife, and eliminates food for pollinating insects that farmers and nature depend upon.



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# Lawn Mowing



Find more Yard Smart  
recommendations at  
**[yardsmart.org](http://yardsmart.org)**

## Alternatives

### **No-Mowing Option:**

The method with the least environmental impact is to stop mowing altogether. Native landscaping (see YardSmart Native Plants pamphlet) offers this opportunity.

### **Mowing Options:**

1. A reel mower (= push mower), powered manually, has the least impact. This assumes that your physical condition and lawn size are a good match. Some people convert most of their lawn to native landscaping, and leave a smaller part as an organic lawn to make this option work.
2. An electric mower that is powered by a rechargeable battery or a cord plugged into an outdoor socket is another alternative to the traditional power mower. These are easier to push than a reel mower, and the amount of electricity used is minimal.

## Product Information

We do not endorse or receive proceeds from any particular companies, we do provide the following suggestions to explore for reel and electric mowers.

### **Reel Mowers:**

Regular sharpening of the blade is important. Locally, one can have that done at:

- Sharpening Shop, 710 N. Lumber St., Bloomington (north section of Lumber). 309-820-8383.
- Mohr Window and Door (sharpen reel mowers only). Ask for Dick. 613 Oglesby ave, Normal. 309-454-6647.
- Farm and Fleet. 2201 West Market Street. Bloomington, IL 61705. 309-829-0018.
- The Ecology Action Center also has a blade sharpener available in our library. Stop by the Ecology Action Center to check out the blade sharpener free of charge.



### **Electric Mowers:**

- Bully Co. Manufacturer and wholesale supplier. Lake Barrington, Illinois, 60010. 847-304-0900