



# American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn

By Ted Steinberg

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**“Ted Steinberg proves once again that he is a master storyteller as well as our foremost environmental historian.”?Mike Davis**

The rise of the perfect lawn represents one of the most profound transformations in the history of the American landscape. *American Green*, Ted Steinberg's witty exposé of this bizarre phenomenon, traces the history of the lawn from its explosion in the postwar suburban community of Levittown to the present love affair with turf colorants, leaf blowers, and riding mowers.

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## American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn By Ted Steinberg Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Apartment-dwelling urbanites may be surprised to learn how significant lawn care is to the American economy, generating more than \$10 billion in annual sales of pesticides, fertilizers and other products. Steinberg, an environmental historian, is aiming for the grassy equivalent of *Fast Food Nation*, with one key difference—while people know junk food isn't good for them, they may not be aware that most lawn care products are not only unnecessary but may actually harm soil and turf. He particularly damns the lawnmower industry, revealing how manufacturers "worked tirelessly to mislead the American public" for years in order to avoid the expense of installing safety features that could prevent severed fingers. Steinberg's subjects range from the postwar boom in suburban lawns to contemporary debates over noisy leaf blowers, and he mixes cultural history with personal lawn-related experiences in Long Island and Ohio, where some people maintain putting greens in their backyards. (Not surprisingly, Steinberg points out, golf courses are "the most intensively managed lawns in America.") There's plenty of muckraking outrage, but it's delivered in a friendly, engaging voice that might just win over skeptics. 40 illus. (Mar.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Infinitely more interesting than watching grass grow, Steinberg's study of grass becomes a rueful and revealing commentary on America's nearly myopic devotion to acquiring and maintaining the perfect lawn. Forget your purple waves of grain; America's predominant landscape feature is a lush carpet of pristine green grass mowed so short it couldn't wave if it wanted to. Tracing the sociological roots of this horticultural phenomenon from the burgeoning post-World War II cookie-cutter suburbs with their postage-stamp lawns to today's manicured, multiacre estates, Steinberg illustrates how and why American home owners have elevated their fascination with this humble plant into an obsessive Grail-like quest. From mowers to blowers, weeds to water, crabgrass to bluegrass, Steinberg dishes the dirt on the products and practices that get results, not all of them in the home owner's--or the planet's--best interest. Balancing his sardonic, tongue-in-cheek wit with an investigative reporter's penchant for revelatory journalism, Steinberg offers an expose that is as entertaining as it is instructive. *Carol Haggas*

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Review

"The lawn is the centerpiece of the American Dream, and why wouldn't we dream about our obsession? In *American Green*, Ted Steinberg explores the psychological, moral, economic, and, yes, even political implications of growing and mowing a lawn, a not at all academic act that turns out to be a blast. You may never picnic the same way again, but if you do, you will want to talk about it with your city councilman, if not your doctor."

- **Robert Sullivan, author of *Rats***

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**Mary Torres:**

The book American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn make you feel enjoy for your spare

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**Deborah Walker:**

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the entire day to reading a guide. The book American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book features high quality.

**Lola Behrendt:**

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