

**COMPARATIVE LIFE CYCLE COSTS OF NO MOW VERSUS  
TRADITIONAL LAWN OVER A 20 YEAR PERIOD**

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<b><u>Turf Type</u></b>	<b><u>Ave. Install Cost/Acre</u></b>	<b><u>Amortized Annual Cost Per Acre (20 yr)</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Maint. Cost per Acre</u></b>	<b><u>Total Annual Cost/Acre (20 Yrs.)</u></b>
<b>Seeded No Mow</b>	\$2325	\$116	\$100	<b>\$266</b>
<b>Seeded Trad. Lawn</b> @ \$0.75/sq. yd w/o irrigation	\$3630	\$181	\$500	<b>\$681</b>
<b>Sodded Trad. Lawn</b> @ \$2.00/sq. yd. w/o irrigation	\$9680	\$484	\$500	<b>\$984</b>

The above figures are average costs for planting one to two acres. Actual costs may be higher or lower depending upon factors such as:

- 1) The No Mow Install Cost is based upon a seed cost of \$825 per acre, installation cost of \$1000 per acre, and site preparation costs of \$500 per acre.
- 2) The size of area to be planted will influence the per acre cost. The installation cost per acre for both types of lawn will be reduced significantly for larger projects of three acres or more.
- 3) Site preparation costs vary depending upon how much pre-planting weed control is required. Site preparation costs can vary from \$50 per acre to \$500 per acre.
- 4) The maintenance costs for the No Mow lawn are based upon one annual mowing at a cost of \$50 per acre. De-thatching of the No Mow lawn may be required every two or three years, increasing the maintenance cost accordingly. However, thatch buildup is encourage by regular mowing, so the No Mow lawn should require less frequent de-thatching than a traditional bluegrass turf.
- 5) Annual maintenance costs for traditional lawn will vary depending upon the level of care provided. The figures above are based upon a typical lawn care regime of spring fertilization, broadleaf and pre-emergent herbicide treatment, and bi-weekly mowing. Costs such as annual depreciation of equipment, labor and benefits, as well as fuel, herbicides, fertilizers, fungicides, and other lawn care products are included in these figures.
- 6) If a permanent irrigation system is to be installed as part of the traditional lawn maintenance program, the initial cost per acre must be increased accordingly to reflect this added expense. Permanent irrigation systems are generally not required for No Mow lawns in areas that receive 25 inches of precipitation or more per year, due to the higher drought tolerance of the fine fescue grasses of the No Mow turf.
- 7) If specific perennial weeds appear in the No Mow, herbicide treatment may be required. This will increase annual maintenance costs of the No Mow turf option.