

## THE BIG (BIODIVERSITY) PICTURE

Bringing Nature Home by Doug Tallamy

Nature's Best Hope: New Approach to Conservation Starts in Your Yard by Doug Tallamy

- Humans have fundamentally altered indigenous habitat
- Plants and pollinators share evolutionary history; 90% are specialists
- Nonnative plants displace biodiversity and stable food webs
- Call to action to rejuvenate ecosystems + repair ecological connections

## WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT TURF?

Turf is the default for American lawns, public right-of ways  
40 million acres; largest, most irrigated, and chemical-laden crop

### Native Landscape

Conserves Water  
Natural Beauty  
Biodiverse  
Supports pollinators  
Low Maintenance

### Turf Lawn

Consumes Water  
Homogeny  
Monoculture  
Hinders pollinators  
Ongoing Maintenance



Image: lawntowildflowers.org

## TURF REMOVAL METHODS

Solarization	Sheet-Covering	Physical Removal	Spray Treatment*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Start in May-June</li> <li>&gt; Cut/water to prep</li> <li>&gt; Cover with plastic (clear=solarize;black=occultation, 4 mil)</li> <li>&gt; Airtight enclosure</li> <li>&gt; Solar heat clears soil</li> <li>&gt; 6-8 weeks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Start in fall</li> <li>&gt; Cut grass short</li> <li>&gt; Cover area with overlapping cardboard to ensure full coverage</li> <li>&gt; Water to stay in place</li> <li>&gt; Cover with mulch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Select sod-cutter or shovel method</li> <li>&gt; Sod-cutter: use 3" setting and remove lawn in strips, roll + remove</li> <li>&gt; Shovel: dig and flip turf grass side down</li> </ul>	<p><b>*not recommended</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Spray area with non-selective glyphosate, alt: vinegar</li> <li>&gt; Water 24 hours prior</li> <li>&gt; Apply on sunny, windless day</li> <li>&gt; Reapply in 2-4 weeks</li> </ul>
<p><u>*PRO:</u> efficient, kills weeds, inexpensive, minimal labor, great for wide sunny areas; <u>CON:</u> Slow, does not work in shade</p>	<p><u>PRO:</u> efficient for small areas, inexpensive, minimal labor, builds rich soil <u>CON:</u> Slow, not practical for large lawns</p>	<p><u>PRO:</u> fast, can plant right away, reuse sod, good for flat areas over 100SF <u>CON:</u> labor-intensive, equipment rental, high chance of weeds</p>	<p><u>PRO:</u> fast, minimal labor <u>CON:</u> chemical pesticide treatment, health risks, not preferred by Carbondale's Integ. Weed Mgmt Plan</p>

For more resources: <https://www.beefriendlycarbondale.com/what-is-the-process>

## PRINCIPLES FOR NATIVE LANDSCAPES

Right Plant, Right Place: sun/shade, water/irrigation, soil, mulch, + observe!

Plant Lists:

- Xerces Society Native Plants for Pollinators in Rocky Mountains - [xerces.org](http://xerces.org)
- Native Plant Finder | National Wildlife Foundation - [nativeplantfinder.nwf.org](http://nativeplantfinder.nwf.org)

Prairie Up by Benjamin Vogt

Meet the Natives: A Field Guide to Rocky Mountain Wildflowers by Pesman and Dan Johnson