

# TOTAL HOME

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## When mowing is too much work and asphalt is too boring

Most lawns have at least some grass. But having to regularly mow a narrow strip of grass can be a real pain in the neck. Particularly if it doesn't grow well and is in a spot that is different to water. Out of sheer frustration, some people might be tempted to simply pave this area and be done with it. But before going to such extreme measures, there are some easy, attractive and affordable alternatives that you might want to

consider.

### GROUND COVER

For example you can turn to plants that act as a ground cover, such as wintercreeper and periwinkle, which beautifully complement small shrubs such as the butterfly bush, the hydrangea with its oak-like leaves and the lilac. These shrubs rarely exceed nine feet and certain ones, such as the butterfly bush, will attract all sorts of butterflies and birds to your lawn.

### PERFECT CHOICE

If you prefer to have a lawn that has a less manicured look, wild strawberry plants are a perfect choice. Not only are they very hardy, but they can also endure direct sunlight. What's more, they will provide a thick carpet for those hard-to-landscape areas of your lawn. Alternatively, you can opt for the Japanese spurge, but it prefers shady areas. If your lawn is on a hill, English ivy is ideal. It provides an attractive ground cover and will help prevent soil erosion.

### FLAGSTONES

If you would like to landscape a space of lawn between the sidewalk and the road, why not use natural boulder pavement or interlocking stone? Industrially-made flagstones can offer a homogenous shape and are perfect for stairs and borders. If you choose to go this route, apply a film or separator underneath.

Possible ground covers include: Yarrow; May lily; Pyracanth; Japanese spurge; Common periwinkle; Common heather; and Wintercreeper.



A small lawn without any grass or pavement can look gorgeous with the proper plants.

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