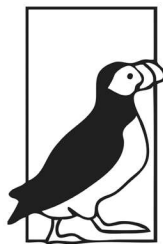
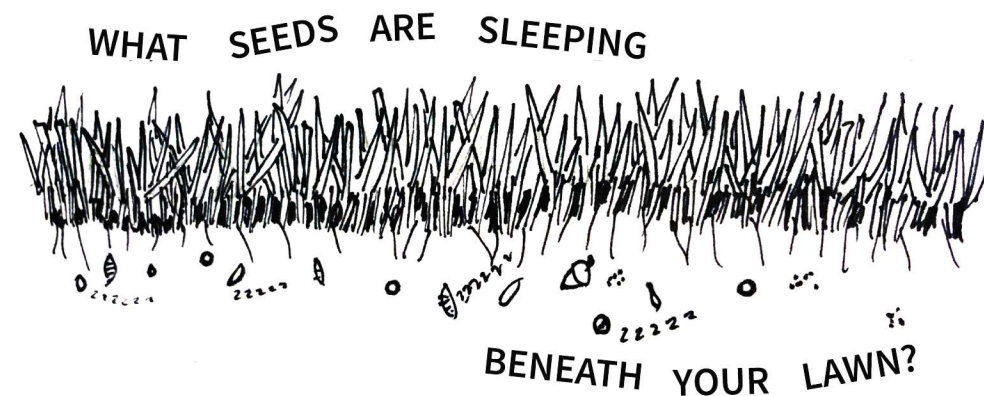


## SOURCES for more information on LAWN ECOLOGY:

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- Ignatieva, Maria, Karin Ahrné, Jörgen Wissman, Tuula Eriksson, Pernilla Tidåker, Marcus Hedblom, Thomas Kätterer, et al. "Lawn as a Cultural and Ecological Phenomenon: A Conceptual Framework for Transdisciplinary Research." *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* 14, no. 2 (January 1, 2015): 383–87. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2015.04.003>.
- Milesi, Cristina, Steven W. Running, Christopher D. Elvidge, John B. Dietz, Benjamin T. Tuttle, and Ramakrishna R. Nemani. "Mapping and Modeling the Biogeochemical Cycling of Turf Grasses in the United States." *Environmental Management* 36, no. 3 (September 1, 2005): 426–38. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-004-0316-2>.
- State of the Planet. "The Problem of Lawns," June 4, 2010. <https://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2010/06/04/the-problem-of-lawns/>.

# LAWN (RE)DISTURBANCE LABORATORY



Funding has been made possible by The Puffin Foundation, Ltd.



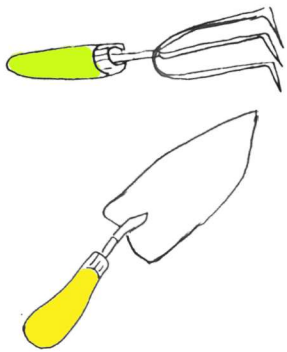
NESL 2019, share & share alike  
<http://nextepochseedlibrary.com>



<http://nextepochseedlibrary.com/lawn>

## LAWN (RE)DISTURBANCE LABORATORY (LAWN LAB)...

is a public experiment in collaboration with seeds, time and weeds.

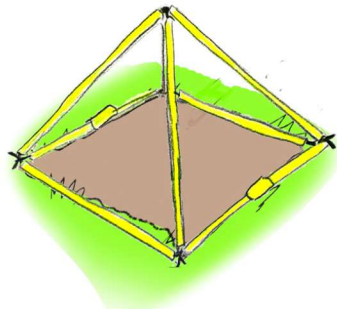


“Pioneer species” are those plants that respond to disaster and disturbance, sprouting rapidly in bare, exposed or otherwise de-vegetated earth to jump start the process of ecosystem recovery. Large-scale events like earthquakes, floods, and landslides can churn up soil, exposing it to light, warmth, air and moisture. These ingredients unlock latent energy in the living **subterranean soil seed bank**--seeds that may have been dormant for years or even decades spring into action, providing the basis for ecosystem recovery and restoration.

## LAWN (RE) DISTURBANCE = SOIL SEED BANK AWAKENING!!

What seeds are hiding, dormant in the soil, beneath myriad institutional and residential lawns?

For Lawn Lab, we experiment with rewilding small sections of lawns from the seeds sleeping in the soil seed bank. We do that by removing lawn from a 1 x 1 meter square, leaving a patch of bare soil. That bare soil is marked off with a sculptural structure, and left alone for the season so that seeds lying dormant in the soil can sprout and grow. We also take a sample of the soil to sprout indoors, in a controlled environment, so we can compare what grows inside and outside. This helps us tell what plants actually came from the soil seed bank, and which might have drifted in on the wind.



## WHY REWILD A LAWN?

Well, it turns out, lawns are an ecological disaster! For water, for soil, for biodiversity, and for human and multispecies health. A few facts:

- 30-60 percent of urban fresh water is used for watering lawns
- Lawn irrigation sharply increases summer water use, especially in dry regions, where it can make up 75% of total household water consumption
- Many lawns are treated with chemicals and over-fertilized, which poses environmental hazards, and can affect surface and groundwater quality
- A biodiverse meadow can support a more robust multispecies community. This is essential in the midst of an extinction crisis!
- Most of us use fossil fuel-powered machines to mow our lawns.
- And much more. See [nextepochseedlibrary.com/lawn](http://nextepochseedlibrary.com/lawn) more information. Sources for the data above are on the back of this pamphlet.

## LAWN LAB at Seton Hall University

### Visit the plots!

Two Lawn Lab plots were established in August, in two different lawns on the Seton Hall campus. The two lawns have different characteristics: Plot 1 is in a more rigorously maintained, turf grass monoculture, and Plot 2 is in a less maintained, more diverse lawn. You can visit these plots on campus, and see what plants have been observed there over the last two months by visiting our Lawn Lab project on iNaturalist:

[www.inaturalist.org/projects/lawn-lab-soil-seed-bank-study](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/lawn-lab-soil-seed-bank-study)

