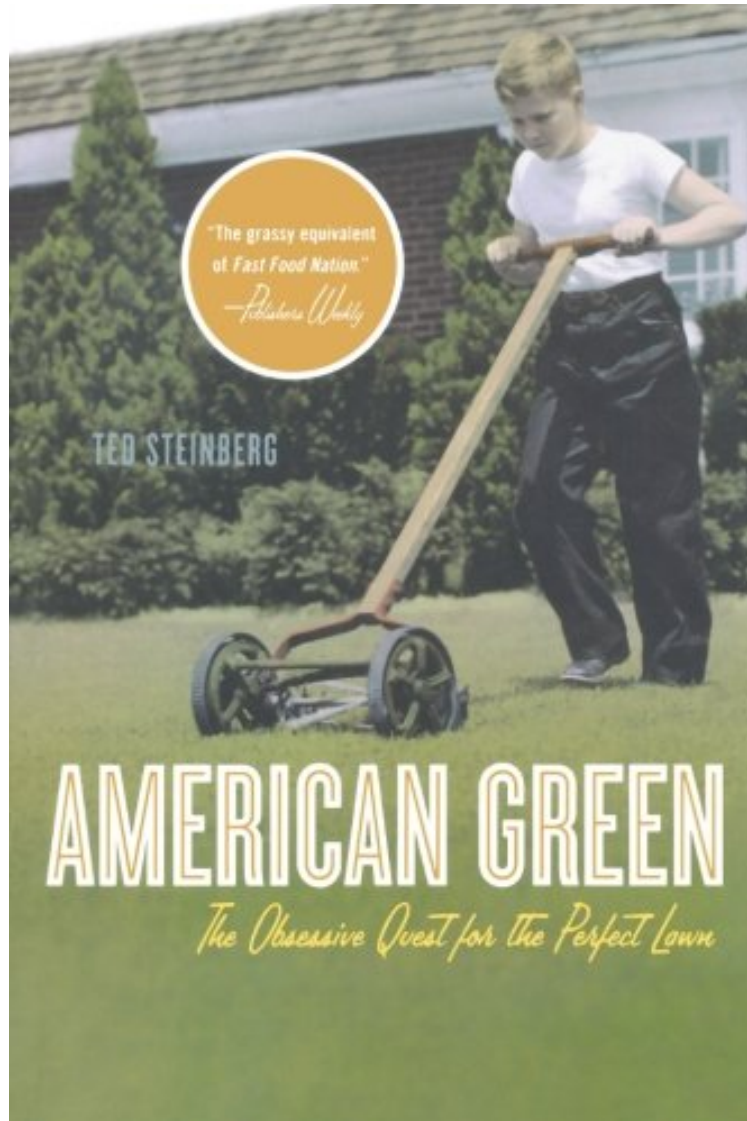


## American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn

Ted Steinberg

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#244982 in Books Ted Steinberg 2007-03-17 2007-03-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.30 x .90 x 6.10l, .89 #File Name: 0393329305320 pagesAmerican Green The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn | File size: 60.Mb

**Ted Steinberg : American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. America's history of monoculture maintenanceBy JThe book is interesting, mostly, with stories about how obsessed Americans are, and what lengths we'll go to, to maintain a patch

of monoculture. If you know nothing about that history, it is a decent read. If you're already familiar with it, then it isn't all that appealing. It really needs some editing/proofing though, as it is chock full of typographical errors. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Boring but highly informative. By Tx-Bill This was required text for American History II. I cannot say the topic was one of my favorites, but this novel contained a good deal of American lawn care history and purpose. I knew a good deal about lawns before I read this book, but I am proud to say I more than doubled my lawn vocabulary and knowledge base with this. Worth reading for informational and historical reasons. Product exactly as described, perfect condition. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating By Voit Roe I was introduced to this book through an environmental history class I took in college. I am studying agroecology and sustainable agriculture, so I came into it with a base knowledge that may have been more than was expected by Steinberg as his target audience and still absolutely loved it. Great research about present conditions and a fascinating look at the past. I would definitely suggest it to anyone, especially people who grew up or presently live in the suburbs.

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.

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.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. 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, multi-acre 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 Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved 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