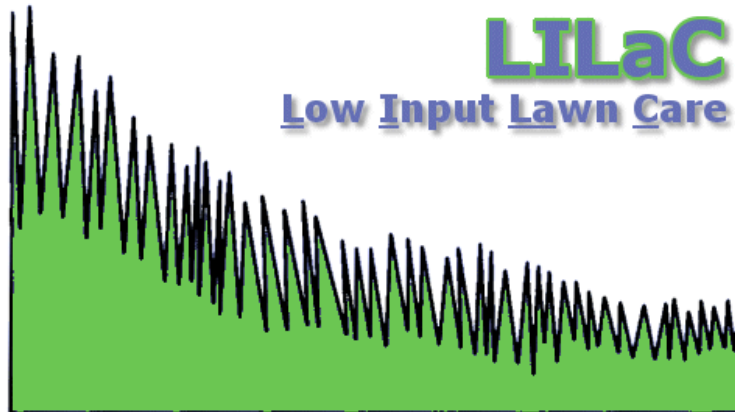


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LILaC is an acronym for Low Input Lawn Care, an approach that embraces strategies and practices designed to reduce the use of lawn care products, water, and the time and labor so often required when maintaining a healthy lawn. Potential benefits to homeowners of using the LILaC approach include cost savings, water conservation, and an environmentally responsible course of action due to prudent and timely applications of lawn care products. Homeowners who prefer practicing high maintenance lawn care techniques also can employ LILaC strategies with similar benefits.

Making the transition to the LILaC approach is a gradual process and it may require an initial investment of time and effort to convert your lawn to this lower maintenance program. During the transition period, when you introduce lower maintenance turfgrass varieties, weed encroachment may increase because of modest growth rates associated with these less vigorous varieties of grasses.

Before embarking on the LILaC program, you should consider a few factors. Under LILaC, your lawn may become more unsuited to heavy traffic, and lower maintenance grasses may recover more slowly from diseases, insects, and environmental stress (e.g., lack of rain).

EVALUATING YOUR LAWN FOR LILaC

To make the transition to a lower maintenance lawn a successful one, begin by carefully evaluating current conditions, including your recent maintenance history. Before beginning corrective action, examine your lawn and surrounding landscape for the following:

- Soil compaction
- Excessive levels of thatch
- Shade
- Poor or excessive drainage
- Weeds
- Insects and other pests
- Species/varieties of grasses present

Lawn grasses that already adapted to less water and fewer nutrients (grasses such as fine-leaved fescues and common Kentucky bluegrasses) must be present. If not, you should consider adding them. (For varieties see "Renovating to a Lower Maintenance Lawn" on

Select Turfgrass Seed for Your Conditions:

Considerations:

- Generally will not be watered.
- Will be fertilized once per year or less.
- Will be mowed no more than once per week.
- Where a more drought-tolerant lawn is desired.

Category 1: Minimum Input, *Sunny Location*

Grass Mix: Mixture of 50 to 60% common type Kentucky bluegrasses and **40 to 50% fine fescue**. Include at least two varieties from Aquila, Monopoly, Nassau, Newport, Nugget, Park, Ram I, Rugby, South Dakota Certified, Sydsport, Touchdown, or other common Kentucky bluegrass. One or two varieties of fine fescue (sometimes listed on the seed label as creeping red fescue, Chewings fescue, or hard fescue) should also be included.

Category 2: Minimum Input, *Partially Shady Location*

Grass Mix: Seed with mixture of about **60% fine fescue grasses** and 40% shade tolerant Kentucky bluegrass. Some of the better shade tolerant Kentucky bluegrass varieties for Minnesota include Eclipse, Glade, Touchdown, Ram I, Nugget, and Sydsport.

UofM Extension,
Mugaas & Pedersen