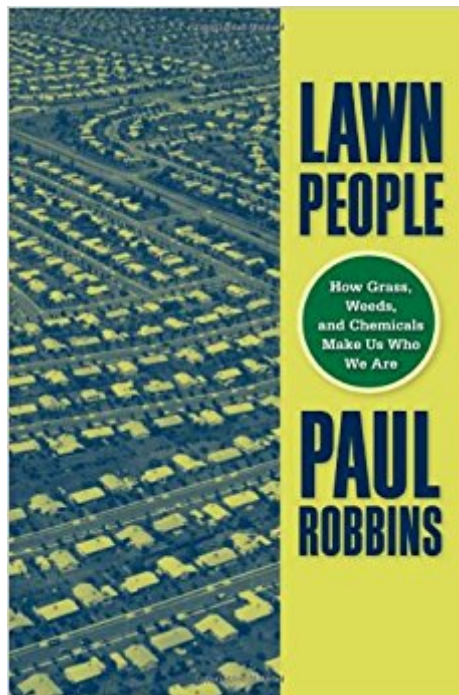




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# Lawn People: How Grasses, Weeds, And Chemicals Make Us Who We Are



## Synopsis

For some people, their lawn is a source of pride, and for others, caring for their lawn is a chore. Yet for an increasing number of people, turf care is a cause for ecological anxiety. This text is a comprehensive survey of the American lawn and how caring for it impacts people's lives.

## Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Temple University Press; annotated edition edition (June 15, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 159213579X

ISBN-13: 978-1592135790

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #261,598 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Lawns](#) #627 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Human Geography](#) #712 in [Books > Science & Math > Environment > Environmentalism](#)

## Customer Reviews

"[Robbins] offers a clever exploration of the political ecology and actor network theory, and a sharp insight into the cynicism of capitalism in the form of the chemical industry. That is a lot for a slim, nicely illustrated and well-written book to achieve, but it does it with style and intelligence... [T]he book is readable and wide-ranging in its arguments...its analysis is relevant wherever suburban values extend... This book should be widely read and discussed." -Environmental Conservation

Paul Robbins is Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Regional Development at the University of Arizona. He is the author of *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*.

Ever feel a little vain about your home design? That's normal, but are your home maintenance strategies... well... realistic? Lawns- the fake boobs of american homes. Marketing to the insecure or exploitive toward caring community members? Lawns cost a lot and harm their prior natural environments through destruction, weed killers and fertilizers... in a trickle down manner. A read that reminds you why sociology is a source of educational entertainment. Like watching a documentary

about death and stuff. The writing reminded me of freakenomics in numerous ways.

This is an accessible but theoretically sophisticated study of American lawns, and the reasons why people who are anxious about the effects of lawn chemicals on themselves, their children and their pets (including a woman who put booties on her dog when its paws bled after it walked on a chemically-treated lawn, rather than stopping the chemical treatment!) continue to use lawn chemicals and obsess over having a monocultured turfgrass lawn. Robbins writes with a minimum of jargon and name-dropping -- any undergraduate could easily follow his arguments without much difficulty -- but also quietly engages with actor-network theory, Foucauldian and Gramscian notions of power, hegemony and subject formation, as well as putting ecology into political ecology. It's a book which could sit equally well on an undergraduate or graduate syllabus, which speaks both to its clarity and the sophistication of its analysis. Highly recommended.

Interesting read.

I bought this book and thought it would be totally lame. Turns out it's actually really interesting. The social aspects that go into a lawn culture extend far outside the boundaries of the green grass and are extremely intriguing. Definitely worth a read.

I think this book is great. Although, I wanted my mom to read it, but this book doesn't allow loaning on kindle, so I recommend buying a paper back.

Really easy to read and interesting.

Robbins argues that the lawn itself has influenced its caretakers into being a certain type of person, and so lawn people may not actually have a choice when it comes to the use of chemicals in lawn care. He draws upon the social constructs created by our culture that guide, if not coerce, us into making such contradictory decisions as using chemicals while knowing they are potentially harmful; constructs such as the importance of public image and the interplay between industry/advertising/producers and consumers. Overall, Robbins does an excellent job of bringing up an entirely new perspective on the American Lawn, reversing the previous belief that it is an expression of the people, but rather we are an expression of the lawn. The book contained sufficient evidence to support the author's position, but I would have liked for Robbins to

discuss things like lake eutrophication or fertilizer related diseases in slightly greater depth.

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