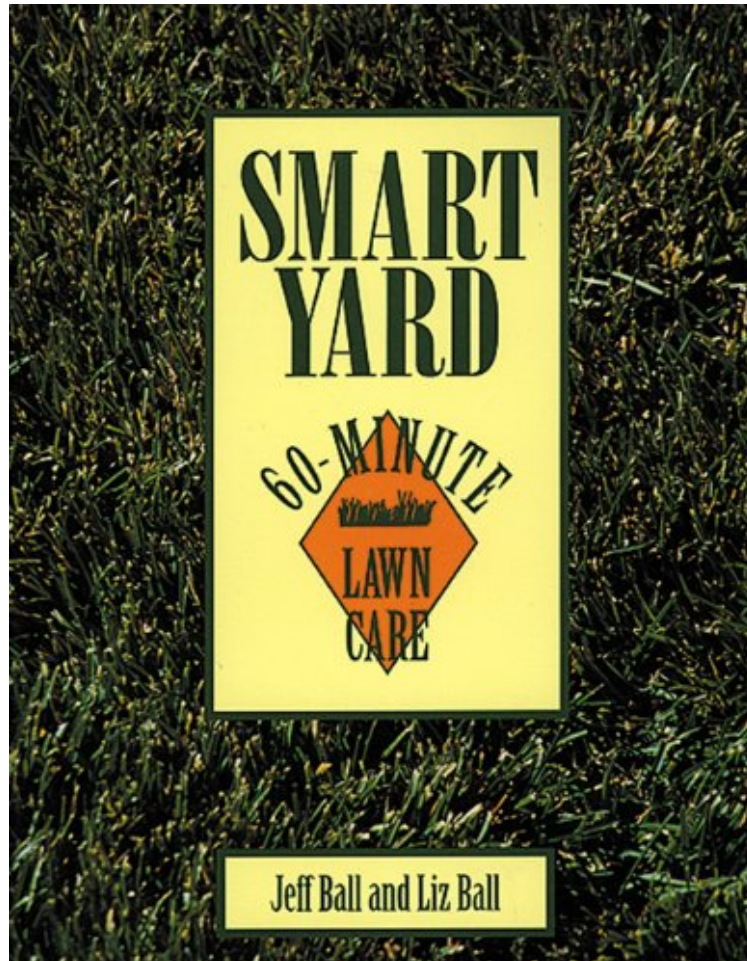


(Get free) Smart Yard: 60-Minute Lawn Care

## Smart Yard: 60-Minute Lawn Care

*Jeff Ball, Liz Ball*

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**Jeff Ball, Liz Ball : Smart Yard: 60-Minute Lawn Care** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Smart Yard: 60-Minute Lawn Care:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. The ABC's of a Green LawnBy DocBasic lawn care techniques presented in a simplistic manner that even a reader with a brown thumb can comprehend and initiate. The authors provide an assortment of techniques with step by step instructions that can be utilized in assessing your lawn's quality, improving your current lawn's condition or starting a lawn from scratch. Overall, an excellent book for the homeowner with limited time to dedicate to lawn care and limited financial resources to hire professional assistance.11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Everything you Need to Grow Grass!By A CustomerThis book has everything you need to create a beautiful lawn. I covers every problem you might ever in encounter and is a very readable 200 pages. It's one draw back is that it does not have color pictures. I (and my neighbors) have seen an immediate improvement in my lawn since I changed to lawn care practices mentioned in the book.7 of 7 people found

the following review helpful. A Comprehensive Guide By Allen Strelow Ever since I bought my first house three years ago (with the worst lawn I have seen), I have been asking people how to make it better. I've tried a few things and been told to try much more. I never was good at understanding plants and soil, so I was looking for a book that explained how and why my lawn grew, why it was thin, weedy, etc. I didn't want someone to tell me "Just do this and that" but more of an educational tool that empowered me to decide what was best for my lawn. This book has answered all of my questions in a way easy for me to grasp. It's too cold now to do anything, but I will use this book next spring. I like how the authors try to be environmentally conscious without being afraid to use modern chemicals when they are best. I would recommend this book to every homeowner in the North. (...)

Deals with all aspects of ecological lawn management in the home landscape.

From Publishers Weekly "Yardeners"-ordinary homeowners caring for lawns and gardens-dream of a low-maintenance lawn without weeds or pests that requires infrequent mowing or watering. The authors-he's the gardening expert for NBC's Today and she is a garden writer-contend that this dream is a very real possibility, demanding "significant effort in the first year or two," after which the lawn will begin to take care of itself. This non-technical and clearly written guide considers, specifically, the "northern" or "cool weather" grasses, those comprising lawns from Maine to North Carolina and west to the Dakotas as well as the Pacific Northwest. After a discussion of effective techniques for general lawn care, the Balls take on compaction problems, soil rebuilding, drainage and re-seeding; a final section tackles insect and animal pests and grass diseases. While this is not a guide to an entirely organic yard-the authors describe themselves as "reluctant and cautious users of pesticides"-it does offer choices. Advice for weeds ranges from hand-pulling to herbicidal spot-treatment to complete starting over; solutions for insect pests include both beneficial nematodes and insecticidal soaps. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal In recent years, environmentalists, gardeners, and harried homeowners have begun to question the validity of the American lawn as the major feature of most landscapes. As traditionally tended, a lawn in most parts of the country demands a great deal of time, money, and effort to maintain. These two books offer greatly differing strategies for handling this problem. The Balls (Yardening, LJ 12/91) recognize that most people want to keep their grassy lawns but with a lot less effort. Readers of Smart Yard will quickly realize that the subtitle's 60-minutes-per-week claim will only take effect a year or more after they make the initial investment in time and effort to renew or replace their lawn by improving the soil, choosing appropriate grass varieties, aerating and dethatching, eliminating most herbicides and pesticides, and assuring frequent but "tall" mowing that leaves the grass around two inches high. The result will be a healthier lawn that will resist drought, diseases, and pests and ultimately demand less pampering. In contrast, Daniels explains how and why to replace turfgrass with other plants to create an entirely new kind of lawn. Examples include prairie and native grass lawns, meadows, moss lawns and woodlands, ground covers, and front-yard gardens. Since many antilawn mavericks have gotten into trouble because of local ordinances and homeowners' associations, Daniels (a former editor of Organic Gardening) includes a chapter on how to deal with such opposition. The Wild Lawn Handbook will find a much smaller audience than the more mainstream Smart Yard, but it gathers together a great deal of specific, practical information that may be hard to find elsewhere, as well as examples of successfully installed alternative lawns. Both books are highly recommended for most gardening collections. Beth Clewis, Prince William P.L., Va. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Jeff Ball Appears monthly on NBC's Today Show as its gardening expert. Jeff and Liz have written numerous articles for national magazines and have six gardening books to their credit. They reside in Springfield, Pennsylvania. Liz Ball is on the board of directors of the Garden Writers of America. Jeff and Liz have written numerous articles for national magazines and have six gardening books to their credit. They reside in Springfield, Pennsylvania.