



# UNDER-PAW PLANTINGS

Replace the lawn with a ground-cover that needs little water and stands up to busy canine feet.

By Johanna Silver

**WHEN YOU** swap out a lawn for unthirsty plantings, don't forget your four-legged friends: They'll still need a place to fetch or sprawl comfortably in the warm sunshine. In the lawn's place, try Kurapia (*Lippia nodiflora*), pictured here; it's a creeper that stays just 1 to 3 inches tall. Once established, it needs 60 percent less water than traditional lawn grass. In California, *Lippia* has a reputation as an invasive weed, but this new strain from Japan won't spread; it's sterile and has no viable seeds. Delta Bluegrass Company is the first to grow it in sod form. It's not recommended above elevations of 5,000 feet or in temperatures below 20°. [deltabluegrass.com/kurapia](http://deltabluegrass.com/kurapia).

PET-FRIENDLY

## 3 MORE PLANTS TO CONSIDER



### SILVER CARPET

*Dymondia margaretae* grows into a very flat (just a few inches tall) mat of gray-green leaves with white undersides. Yellow daisy flowers bloom in summer.



### ROMAN CHAMOMILE

*Chamaemelum nobile* 'Treneague', which is grown more for foliage than for flowers, forms a low, evergreen mass of ferny leaves with a pleasant scent.



### MESA VERDE ICE PLANT

The award-winning, cold-tolerant ice plant *Delosperma* 'Kelaidis' has pale salmon-pink flowers all summer and needs next to no water. ☺