

Starting off with good news. Beaches in Southwest Florida are experiencing their [best sea turtle nesting season](#) on record.

LINK: <https://www.naplesnews.com/story/news/2022/08/11/we-astonished-swfla-best-turtle-nesting-season-record/10286022002/>

The national movement to do away with lawns continues gaining momentum. Turf grass irrigation uses more water than any crop in America, including in places like Florida and the Western United States where its availability is becoming scarcer. Lawns also demand enormous amounts of fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides to keep lush, poisons which pass into our drinking water and kill native plants, animals and insects by the billions.

The turf grass lawn which became a status symbol of mid-Century America, a marker of wealth and achievement, is now increasingly being viewed in another light, as a dead zone, a pointless waste of precious resources, a key battle in the fight against climate change and biodiversity collapse.

A recent op-ed appeared in the *New York Times* titled [“Kill Your Lawn Before it Kills You.”](#)

LINK: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/09/opinion/lawns-water-environment.html>

Lawns are “an archaic cultural value we should let go of.” [This podcast explores](#) the history of lawns and how they became tied up in class, race and society in America.

LINK: <http://outsideinradio.org/shows/yardwork-lawn-and-order>

Did you know that the U.S. Endangered Species Act offers protection to species outside the country, as well as within it. Benefits to those species include money for conservation and bans on their import and sale in the United States. Some 600 foreign species are covered by the Act.

The federal government is considering [a number of new foreign species for protection](#).

LINK: https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/us-to-finally-decide-protection-for-foreign-birds-butterflies-2022-08-08/?utm_source=eeo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=eeo1153&utm_term=EndangeredSpecies&emci=9ad847c3-f218-ed11-bd6e-281878b83d8a&emdi=004ed4b2-ba19-ed11-bd6e-281878b83d8a&ceid=2023608

A great deal of attention has been given to provisions which will combat climate change in the recently passed [Inflation Reduction Act](#). The Congress and president’s next massive opportunity to shape climate policy and conservation comes via the Farm Bill, an enormous piece of legislature impacting every single person in the country in one way or another, a political deathmatch most citizens don’t know the first thing about. [Here’s a primer](#).

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2022/08/12/u-s-house-democrats-send-sweeping-climate-health-and-tax-legislation-to-biden/>

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2022/08/13/farm-bill-season-arrives-whats-the-outlook-for-2023/>

Lastly, my “Welcome to Florida” podcast this week takes a look at [Florida’s monkey colonies](#).

LINK: <https://www.stitcher.com/show/welcome-to-florida/episode/episode-112-floridas-monkey-colonies-205626390>