## Lawns: A Highly Desired and Quite Unnatural Ecosystem

## AGRI-VIEWS

by Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent

I have strange friends. Imagine that! Recently one of them sent me a story about the history and evolution of lawns. Not expanses of grass; we call those meadows, pastures or prairies, but lawns. To be more specific, lawns are those (often) highly manicured and maintained expanses of grass around a person's residence. Unfortunately, the concept that most homeowners have of what a proper lawn is, comes to us from Europe and, at least for most of Kansas, is a very unnatural ecosystem!

If you think about what has changed with home landscaping, it was the lawn mower.