

Agrarian Joys of Ornamental Lawns

by Gary Hardaway

In not-quite spring,
when lawns are ragged
with early weeds,
the greens
of all precocious plants
reproach
the tardy grass
and slow, deciduous trees.
The leaves
that clung through February
fall, dung brown, amid
the slumbering vinca
and sleet-singed liriopé,
inaccessible,
except by hand
and bent, indignant backs.

