In their series of papers, Graph Minors, Robertson and Seymour introduce a tree decomposition of a graph. This definition leads to a useful graph property called tree width. The \( n \times n \)-grid graph is the classical example of a planar graph of tree width \( n \). We prove this graph is not minimal in the sense that it contains a proper minor which also has tree width \( n \), and we characterize the edges in the \( n \times n \)-graph whose removal reduces the tree width. Furthermore, we prove that the \( n \)-triangular-grid graph also has tree width \( n \). These graphs provide insight into the family of minor-minimal planar graphs of tree width \( n \). (Received September 13, 2013)