



Lose your lawn and **Build Healthy Soil**

Sheet Mulching makes **Soil Lasagna**.

We call this lawn removal process Sheet Mulching, or Soil Lasagna, because we layer materials that living soil organisms eat up and convert to soil. Once you've made the Soil Lasagna, all you need to do is keep the system moist so the microbes can stay awake and cooking. How long this will take depends on the kind of grass you have. If you have warm season grass, you will have to cut it out, but you can plant right away. If you have cool season grass, you can leave it in place, but it will be a while before it's ready for you to plant into the yummy soil you are creating.



You Will Need:

- Shovels and Rakes
- Bins for removed grass and soil
- Landscape flags
- Compost, Worm Castings, or Compost Tea

- Wheelbarrow(s)
- Mulch
- Painters' Paper or big sheets or rolls of Recycled Cardboard
- Hose with shut off nozzle at end
- Water (LOTS!)

Secure Your Permits

Call USA NORTH (8-1-1) two days in advance, and check with your local water agency for any water use restrictions.

Rent a Dumpster

For every 1,000 sq. ft. of turf removed you will need 1 low-boy (10 yard capacity) dumpster.

- 1** After you have checked for permits and any local water use restrictions, and called **USA North (8-1-1)** to mark underground utilities, deal with the lawn you have. If it's cool season, mow it to about 1/2" height, say goodbye and soak it thoroughly with water. Then go to #3. If you want to cut out cool season grass, go to #2.
- 2** If you have warm season grass, rent a sod cutter and remove the grass and 2" - 3" of roots beneath. The result is that you will be removing about 6" of grass and soil. Unfortunately, this must be hauled away, so you will need to rent a dumpster.



- 3** Dig a trench 8"-12" deep (about 1 shovel depth) and at least 12"-24" wide around all hard surfaces and 6" deep along building foundations. **Before moving on, complete your contouring for rainwater absorption and retention and any landscape alterations such as paths, patios, or other features (see pp. 42-43).**
- 4** Flag your sprinkler heads so you can find and adjust them later. Or, be prepared to abandon and replace the irrigation system.
- 5** Add a (1/2" to 1" deep) layer of compost on top of the graded soil. Alternatively, use humates, a sort of freeze-dried compost available at some landscape supply stores, or spray with compost or worm tea. You are adding good instant microbe food and some living microbes to the soil!



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- 6** Water everything well. Wake up microbes! Let's get the soil party started!
- 7** Roll out painters' paper, cardboard or other paper. Overlap at the seams by at least 6". No naked soil!
- 8** On the hardscape edges, make a "burrito" of rolled paper and mulch to keep grass from resprouting immediately.
- 9** Water the paper again and add another layer of compost here, if you'd like. Rake a thick blanket 4"-6" deep of finely chopped, mixed leaf and wood mulch over the paper or compost.
- 10** Water the mulch thoroughly. This mulch layer will absorb more water than you ever thought possible to become soaked through. Don't despair; just keep slowly watering!
- 11** Plant right through the layers (see p. 57). The longer you wait to plant, the tastier the lasagna will be for the new plants, but you can plant right away if you removed the grass. **If you kept your cool season grass in place, count on waiting 3-4 months before planting. Make sure your HOA is ok with the time frame.**
- 12** Step back and admire your work! Have a glass of lemonade too; you earned it!