

## Turf Removal

There are many ways to get rid of grass in the area you are going to renovate.

### 1. Lasagna Method

**How:** Choke out the grass by blocking the sunlight

**Pros:** Adds life to soil. Leaves native soil in place.

**Cons:** Takes time (two to three months during active growing season)

#### Instructions:

1. Cut the grass short and water it thoroughly.
2. Dig a shovel-depth, 12-inch-wide trench in existing grass alongside any hardscape such as sidewalks and driveways (Figure 1). Discard material.
3. Add a layer of compost to the grass (1 inch if animal-based, 2-3 inches if plant-based). (Figure 1)
4. Water thoroughly.
5. Cover area with painters' paper or cardboard (Figure 2).
6. Add another layer of compost on top of the paper layer.
7. Cover the entire area with wood mulch.
8. Water, water, water.
9. Wait two to three months for grass to die.
10. Plant directly into the layers.



*Figure 1: Trench dug alongside pathway and first compost layer.*



*Figure 2: Cardboard layer on top of first compost layer.*

## 2. Sod Cutter Method

**How:** Use a machine to cut out the grass.

**Pros:** Instant results.

**Cons:** Removes native soil from property if not left in place. Lots of material hauling.

### Instructions:

1. Mark all sprinkler equipment to avoid damage.
2. Hand-dig a trench next to hardscapes such as sidewalks and driveways, in corners and any other space that will be difficult to access with the sod cutter.
3. Rent a sod cutter from hardware store or rental company.
4. Follow sod cutter manual to cut out the grass.
5. OPTIONAL: flip grass over in the area and proceed to step three of the Lasagna Method. This keeps native soil on the property and avoids the debris removal step.
6. Discard/compost debris.
7. Add soil amendment to planting areas at recommended rate.

## 3. Chemical Method

If you are comfortable using chemical to kill the grass, be sure to follow chemical labels. Make sure the grass is completely dead before planting directly into it. In other words, there is no need to remove the dead grass material. As a bonus, the dead grass coverage acts as a good weed barrier.