

## LAWN REMOVAL

There are a number of techniques when it comes to lawn removal.

### ◆ DIG UP the turf, throw it out, fill in with topsoil

Digging up a lawn is not recommended due to being

- Labour-intensive
- Expensive (if a sod-remover is rented)
- Harmful to the soil's structure and beneficial organisms
- Can lead to a massive weed problem
- Removes valuable topsoil that needs to be replaced



### ◆ Cut the lawn, FLIP IT, and then plant on top of it

Digging up and flipping a lawn is not recommended due to being

- Labour-intensive
- Harmful to the soil's structure and beneficial organisms



### ◆ Sheet mulch the lawn (lasagna method) with cardboard or newspaper

- Recent studies show that the commonly-used Lasagna method using corrugated cardboard impedes water and air movement.
- Cardboard's chemicals prevent water and air flow.
- The Lasagna method using newspaper suffocates the soil; soil cannot breathe through wet newspaper.



### ◆ Cover the lawn with wood chips (PREFERRED METHOD)

The easiest and most eco-friendly way to remove lawn and protect the soil is to cover with wood chips.

#### Why wood chips?

Mulching should protect soil life, and wood chips do that

- Sheet mulches restrict oxygen and water
- Eliminating sunlight eliminates weeds
  - Photo-dormant seeds need light
  - Crowns of perennial weeds need light
  - Soil organisms do not need light



- A deep, coarse mulch restricts light but has little effect on water and oxygen

#### **How to cover lawn with arborist wood chips**

- Mow the grass very short
- Apply a thick layer of arborist wood chips, 20-30 cm (8-12 in) deep
- Allow **several weeks to a couple of months** for the grass to die and decompose before planting new vegetation
- Reduce the wood chip layer to 7-10 cm (3-4 in)



#### **Source:**

Chalker-Scott, L. (n.d.). *Wood chips: A mulch for sustainable landscapes*. Washington State University Extension. <https://puyallup.wsu.edu/lcs/files/2015/11/wood-chips.pdf>

\*Research by Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott supports the use of arborist wood chips as a biologically beneficial mulch in landscape conversions and lawn replacement systems. Dr. Chalker-Scott is an extension horticulturalist at Washington State University.