



# Turf Removal Approaches and Considerations

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>HIGH</b></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Environmental Friendliness Scale</b></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>LOW</b></p> </div> </div>					
Simplified	Preferred Method	Warm Season Turf Pretreatments; Use Before Sheet Mulching			
		Acceptable Methods			Not Encouraged
	Sheet Mulching	Non-Toxic Grass Killers	Solarization	Complete Sod Removal	Toxic Grass Killers
<p><b>Cool Season Turf:</b> Sheet Mulching Only</p> <p><b>Warm Season Turf:</b> Kill or Remove Before Sheet Mulching</p>	<p><b>Cool Season:</b> Use newspapers or one layer cardboard</p> <p><b>Warm Season:</b> Use three layers cardboard</p>				
Environmental Issues					
Soil Health	<b>Excellent:</b> Builds soil health due to composting in place	<b>Mixed:</b> May kill soil microbes if present, compost needed to reestablish healthy soil	<b>Mixed:</b> Will kill soil microbes if present, compost needed to reestablish healthy soil	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Mixed:</b> May kill soil microbes if present, compost needed to reestablish healthy soil
Safe for Pets and Kids	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Concerns</b>
Pollution	<b>Excellent:</b> Composts grass in place, adding to health of soil	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good:</b> Composts grass in place, adding to health of soil	<b>Concerns:</b> Gas powered equipment used	<b>Concerns:</b> listed as carcinogen by WHO and indicated in runoff pollution
Landfill	<b>Excellent:</b> No landfill impact	<b>Excellent:</b> No landfill impact	<b>Good:</b> No landfill impact other than plastic disposal	<b>Poor:</b> Sod goes into landfill	<b>Excellent:</b> No landfill impact

### Turf Removal Approaches and Considerations (Continued)

	Sheet Mulching	Non-Toxic Grass Killer	Solarization	Complete Sod Removal	Toxic Grass Killer
<b>Time Table</b>					
Season for treatment	<b>Any</b>	<b>Cool Season Turf:</b> Any <b>Warm Season Turf:</b> Must be applied during growing season	<b>Warm Season only</b>	<b>Any</b>	<b>Cool Season Turf:</b> Any <b>Warm Season Turf:</b> Must be applied during growing season
Time before planting	<b>Fast:</b> Plant large plants before sheet mulching in areas between plants	<b>Medium:</b> Must be applied, wait, water & reapply several times	<b>Slow:</b> Must be done during warm months in sun; takes 4-8 weeks	<b>Fast:</b> Sod cut and Remove turf, then plant before sheet mulching areas between plants	<b>Medium:</b> Must be applied, wait, water & reapply several times
Time for soil improvement	<b>Slow:</b> Sheet Mulching improves soil in 4+ mons.	<b>Slow:</b> Sheet Mulching improves soil in 4+ mons.	<b>Slow:</b> Sheet Mulching improves soil in 4+ mons.	<b>Slow:</b> Mulch will improve soil in 4+ mons.	<b>Slow:</b> Sheet Mulching improves soil in 4+ mons.
<b>Components</b>					
	Layers of Newspaper, Cardboard, Compost & Mulch	Ammoniated Salts of Fatty Acids Potassium Salts of Fatty Acids d-Limonene	Clear Plastic followed by Sheet Mulching	Dig out top 3 to 6 inches of sod; dispose of in landfill	Glyphosate Diquat Dibromide
<b>Cost DIY</b>					
	<b>\$\$</b> Mulch, compost & free cardboard	<b>\$\$\$</b> Poison & Sheet Mulching	<b>\$\$\$</b> Plastic & Sheet Mulching	<b>\$\$\$\$\$</b> Sod Cutter Rental, Dump Fee & Sheet Mulching	<b>\$\$\$</b> Poison & Sheet Mulching
<b>Labor DIY</b>					
	<b>Easy</b>	<b>Easy</b>	<b>Easy</b>	<b>Extensive</b>	<b>Easy:</b> Observe safety precautions
<b>Potential for Break-Through Regrowth of Turf</b>					
Cool Season Turf	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low, but not needed</b>	<b>Low, but not needed</b>	<b>Low, but not needed</b>	<b>Low, but not needed</b>
Warm Season Turf	<b>Medium (alone):</b> Used alone, use 3 layers of cardboard and remove / treat breakthrough grass; For complete kill, pre-treat.	<b>Low / Medium:</b> Must be done when grass is actively growing during warm season, not winter. Use multiple applications for best control.	<b>Low:</b> Must be done during warm season	<b>Low /Medium:</b> Can be done anytime	<b>Low:</b> Must be done when grass is actively growing during warm season, not winter. Use multiple applications for best control.