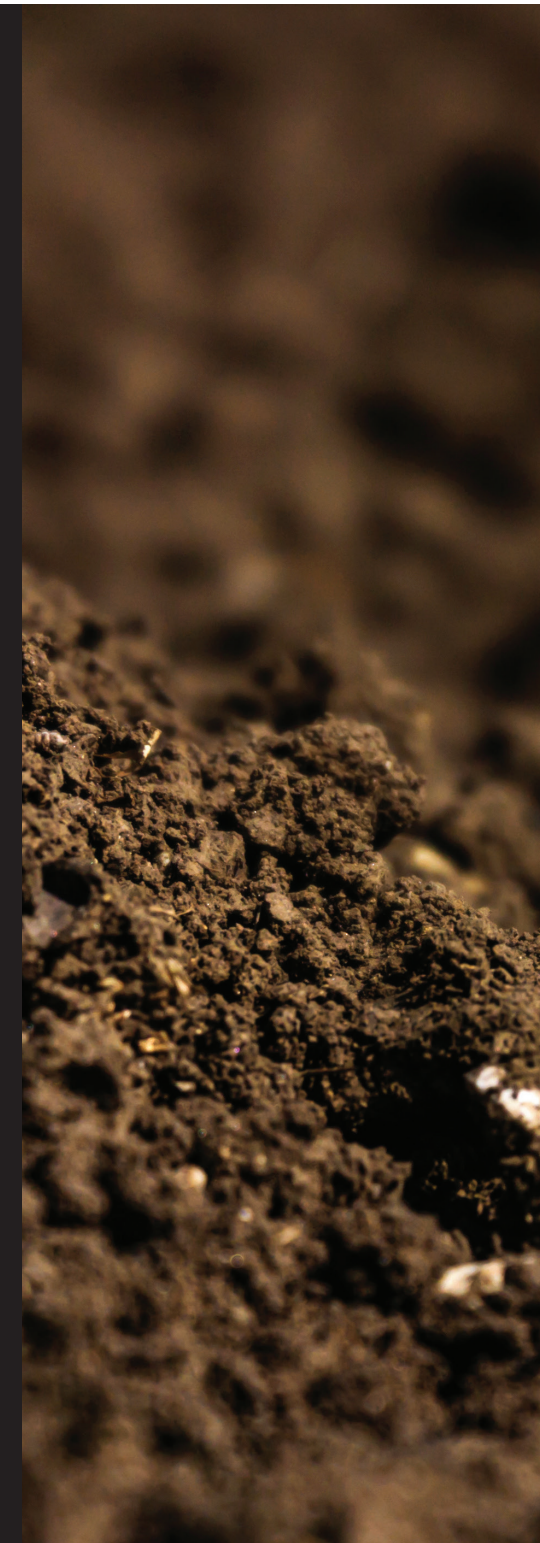


# SHEET MULCHING





# SHEET MULCHING: TAKE BACK SOME OF YOUR OWN TURF

Sheet mulching is an easy process for creating garden beds by layering cardboard, newspaper, compost and mulch on top of existing vegetation, allowing it all to break down and compost in place.

## DIGGING DEEPER

As the sheet-mulched layers begin to break down, earthworms, beneficial soil microorganisms and fungi cycle nutrients back into the soil, improving soil structure and health to keep your plants looking their best.

## MULCHING BENEFITS

- Reducing landscape weeds
- Slowing evaporation
- Keeping moisture at the root zone where plants can access it

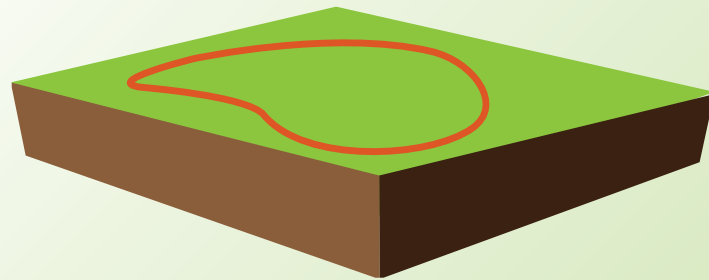
When it rains, mulch helps slow down the water drops as they hit the ground, allowing more rain into the soil and less water and mud to escape down sidewalks and driveways.

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Remove plastic tape and staples from cardboard and soak it in a large bucket or empty trash can.
- Soak sheets of cardboard in a large bucket or empty trash can.

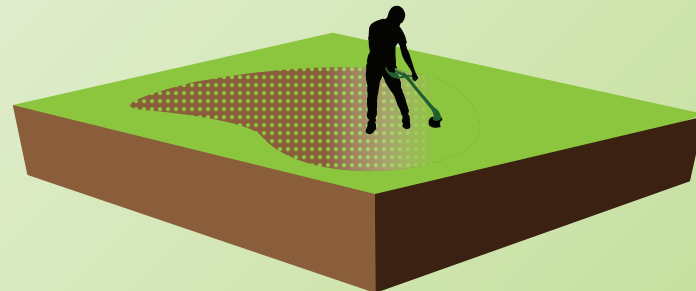
1

Outline the shape of your new bed using marking paint, rope or an old water hose.



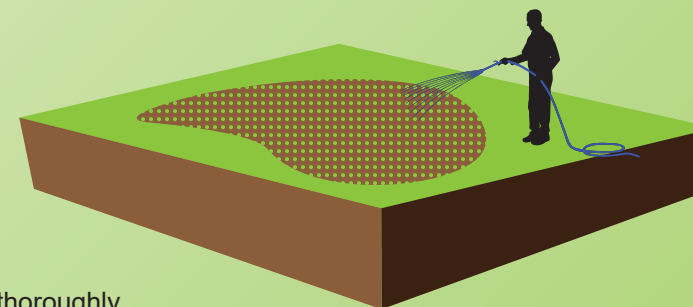
2

Use a string trimmer or the lowest mowing height to "scalp" the area.



3

Water the new bed evenly. A moist environment will help the materials break down faster.



4

Add a layer of soaked cardboard over your new bed and sprinkle a layer of finished compost.

5

Water thoroughly.

## OPTIONAL STEPS FOR DENSE VEGETATION AND AGGRESSIVE WEEDS:

6

Add a layer of soaked cardboard over your new bed.

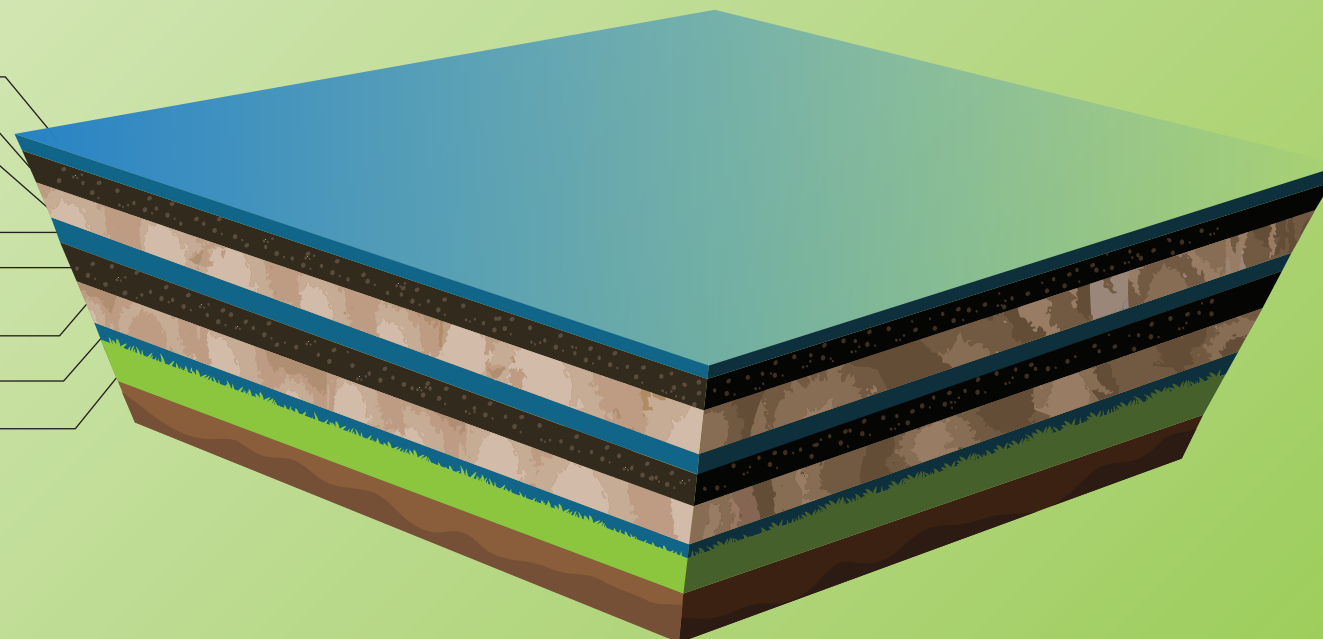
7

Sprinkle a layer of finished compost.

8

Water thoroughly.

Water  
Compost  
Layer of cardboard  
Water  
Compost  
Layer of cardboard  
Water  
Existing turf mowed short



## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Water thoroughly between each layer to slow down evaporation and speed up decomposition.
- Sprinkle compost over each layer of cardboard and newspaper to add nitrogen and beneficial microorganisms to the mix. This helps break down the layers quickly, delivering usable resources into the soil.
- When carrying out steps 6-8, completely cover any seams in the first layer.
- Control very aggressive weeds by a pre-application of your choice of organic or synthetic herbicide. Apply these by adhering closely to label instructions.
- Try hardwood mulches in landscape areas with trees, shrubs and perennial flowers. Straw and pine needles work great in beds with herbs and vegetables.
- At all times, maintain a 2"-4" mulch layer. Pull weeds or control them with recommended organic or synthetic herbicides when appropriate. Maintain as you would any other landscaped bed, long term.