



# Easy Lawn Removal with Sheet Mulching



Learn more! Visit our website or call:

**emswcd.org**  
**(503) 222-7645**

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## What is Sheet Mulching?

Sheet mulching is the process of placing layers of cardboard or newspaper and mulch over your lawn. Beneficial soil microorganisms help break down the organic matter to create healthier soil for future plantings!

## Why Sheet Mulch?

It's an easy, affordable and natural way to reduce lawn without chemicals, allowing you to open up space in your yard to create a healthy, thriving landscape.



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## Why remove lawn?

Keeping a green lawn requires a lot of time, maintenance and water - which gets expensive. With your thirsty lawn gone, you can feel good about:

- Conserving water
- Saving money on your water bill!
- Reducing pollution
- Building healthy soil
- Capturing carbon from the air
- Absorbing more stormwater
- Creating healthy habitat for beneficial wildlife

Replacing your lawn with native plants is good for you, good for wildlife and good for the climate!

## How it works

Layers of cardboard and mulch or compost prevent sunlight from reaching the grass, which causes it to die back naturally. These materials decompose when worms and soil micro-organisms mix all this organic matter into the ground below. This creates healthy, soft, nutrient-rich soil where your new plants will thrive!

### How can I learn more?

EMSWCD offers **FREE** workshops, annual events, tours and presentations!

Visit our website:

[emswcd.org](http://emswcd.org)



## What to do - 6 simple steps!



1. Mow lawn as short as possible, leave clippings on lawn.
2. Water thoroughly (moisture is essential to the process).
3. Place cardboard or newspaper over the area of lawn you wish to remove. *Overlap edges by at least 6" to block out all sunlight.*

**For cardboard:** remove all tape and staples.

**For newspaper:** use-16-20 layers. Non-glossy paper only.

4. Water until the newspaper/cardboard is soggy all the way through.
5. Cover with a thick layer (4-6") of mulch or compost.
6. Wait for 8 weeks, then dig through and plant!

## Materials needed

- Lawn mower
- Water
- Cardboard or newspaper
- Shovel and wheelbarrow
- Compost or mulch
- Rake

### Helpful Timing Tips

- This can be done in the early spring or the fall.
- Be patient! The longer you allow it to decompose, the better results you will have.
- Remove weeds as necessary until planting day.