

# VEGETATION REMOVAL

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For best results, remove vegetation before preparing the soil and replanting the area. Consider these options:

## **SOD CUTTER**

Cut the grass and roots one to two inches deep in the soil with a sod cutter. Lift the grass, weeds and soil and dispose. This is one of the fastest ways to remove unwanted lawns. It may not be effective on deep roots or stubborn weeds, which may grow back later.

After sod removal, it's important to till in one to two inches of compost at least six inches into the soil to restore organic material.

## **SHEET MULCHING**

Mow or trim grass and weeds as low as possible and place a layer of cardboard on top of the vegetation, covering the area with four inches of mulch. Water to settle in the mulch. This works best on flat areas.

Over three to six months the grass and weeds will die and then area can be planted after the vegetation is dead. The dead plant material will improve the quality of soil. Don't sheet mulch under trees you want to keep since the roots need oxygen and water.

## **HAND DIGGING**

Use a shovel to lift unwanted plants out of the soil. Remove as much of the root as possible. This is a good method for small areas or around trees you plan to keep.

**Visit [csu.org](https://www.csu.org) for water-wise information, irrigation rebates and instructional videos.**



## **SPRAY METHOD**

Apply a weed and grass killer to the leaves of unwanted vegetation. Water regularly for the chemical to work through and then rototill the dead leaves and roots into the soil. This may take several applications, requiring up to one month.

The spray method works well on slopes and usually doesn't damage tree roots. Some herbicides can be used to kill certain plants and preserve others in the same area. Consult with a landscape or garden professional to choose a herbicide.



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