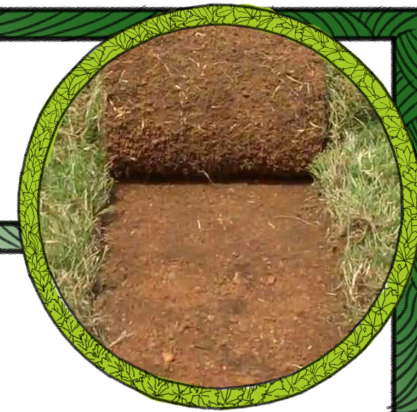


LAWN REMOVAL INFORMATION



Why Remove Your Lawn?

Southern California is a unique environment that requires a new approach to landscaping at home. The old ways of formal landscaping of the east coast may not be applicable in the south-west. Our environment is dry and water is limited, but we can create meaningful and ecologically rich landscapes without the lawn! Be inspired by nature and invite it into your landscape!

Methods to Remove Lawn:

Sod Cutter



Description

A sod cutter is a piece of gardening equipment that separates sod or grass from the soil. It is a viable alternative to manually removing sections of sod from the ground with a shovel or hoe, which can be messy and time-consuming and can strain the back. Use a mechanized sod cutter for larger areas. A sod cutter is especially useful if your existing lawn is alive and thick.

You will need to figure out a way to dispose of the rolled up sod. You can rent a dumpster or pay a landscaper to do the cleanup. Landscapers generally charge around \$1/S.F to perform the entire job of lawn removal.

Solarize



If you are in no rush or have an invasive type of grass that will not die (an example would be nutgrass), you can solarize the lawn. Solarizing is achieved by placing thick clear plastic on top of the area of lawn you wish to remove. Place bricks or rocks on top to hold it down. Heat is trapped under the plastic and slowly kills the grass. This method can take about 4-6 weeks. It is also not very attractive during that time, make sure this method is okay with your neighborhood, or reserve this method for your back yard.

Before placing the plastic, mow your lawn very short and remove clippings. Also keep in mind that after solarization, you may still need to do some grading, especially where the dirt meets concrete surfaces. For that you may want to use a rototiller.

Rototiller



Rototillers are machines that turn up soil, generally fueled by gasoline-powered engines and spinning tines. They must be pushed through the soil to be tilled up. Rototillers prepare the soil for planting without spade digging or using a hoe by hand to loosen the soil. If your lawn is dead already or you don't really have much of a lawn, use a rototiller to turn up the soil then manually rake out the clumps of roots and grass. If your lawn is green and alive, it is not recommended that you use a rototiller to do the initial removal.