



# Utility EXPLORATION CENTER

*Where utilities meet life*



## Replacing Your Lawn Webinar Q & A

### **Q. Will grass under the sheet mulching just die off or will it grow back thru the mulching?**

A. The grass, etc. that is under the sheet mulching will die off. If you are diligent (do as I say, not as I do) about keeping your top mulch (bark, etc.) about 2-3 inches thick you should have very little problems with weeds.

### **Q. Will she be addressing the lawn removal rebate program? In particular, I want to replace a section of my front yard with a driveway. Will that qualify for the rebate program?**

A. I recommend contacting the Roseville Water Efficiency department to get the best answer for your question. Please visit [roseville.ca.us/rebates](http://roseville.ca.us/rebates) or call 916-774-5761.

### **Q. If planning a vegetable garden, what steps do you take to ensure that there are no pesticide residue (round up, etc.) by the time you plant the veggies?**

A. You will not be using any type of herbicide in the sheet mulching process, so it shouldn't be an issue.

### **Q. Did you do the landscape design yourself? Are there any landscape design websites to recommend?**

A. I did my own landscaping using inspiration from the books I showed and the UC Davis Arboretum. I strongly suggest visiting the various gardens at the arboretum if you have never done so. If you are interested in planting for pollinators, you can find Sun/Shade Planting Plans on their website.

### **Q. My lawn is over 20 years old. It seems very thick due to cuttings/growth over the years. It seems putting the sheet/mulch will make it too tall to do this...any recommendations on this?**

A. Remember you are taking your lawn down as close to the soil as possible before you start the sheet mulching process. If your lawn doesn't contain weeds, please use what you cut down in your compost pile.

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## **Q. Is there another option less unsightly and less time consuming?**

A. If you are referring to my slide that showed the paper and a little mulch, I understand why you would think it's unsightly. As I said in the presentation your final step is to cover the sheet mulch up with a 2-3 inch layer of mulch such as bark, which is all that will be seen until it's planting time. Your other option is to rent a sod cutter or hire someone to remove your lawn. With either of those options remember after everything is removed top your soil with compost then a type of mulch as you want to put nutrients back into your soil.

## **Q. What is the best sequence to begin to plan lawn removal? Do I first figure out how to modify the existing sprinkler irrigation system? Or kill grass and then figure out modifying irrigation?**

A. I recommend you kill everything you want to replace first. Mark where your existing sprinkler system is for reference when deciding where to place your new plants.

## **Q. Can you plant bulbs under the sheet mulching?**

A. The sheet mulching process basically suffocates what is under it until the process is complete, so please wait until the mulching has decomposed.

## **Q. I am planning a raised bed for vegetables for next spring. Can I sheet mulch now with just the cardboard and newspaper and add compost and earth in the spring? What if pesticides have been used in the past?**

A. Are you talking about placing the beds on top of the sheet mulching, or in the beds? With either scenario, I would sheet mulch now. In regard to the pesticides, it depends on which ones were used, however, being sheet mulching is a long, slow process they shouldn't be an issue. The label on the pesticide container should indicate how soon you can plant after using the product.

## **Q. For sheet mulching, instead of coffee grounds would you recommend the mulch you can buy from the Placer landfill?**

A. The leaves and coffee ground layers can be replaced by compost purchased at the landfill, but not mulch. Compost feeds the soil, whereas typical mulch sits on top of the soil to protect it...such as bark.