

Smothering to Prepare Ground for Planting

Here is one version of the smothering technique

- Use a hose or rope to create a shape you like.
- Mow or weed-whip the grass down to the dirt.
- Cut around the outside with a spade or shovel, angling away from you.
- Step inside the shape and cut around it again so you can remove the V of turf.
This creates the guide for the cardboard and a finished look when mulched.
- Put down cardboard to completely cover the grass inside the shape.
(Wetting the cardboard makes it easier to bend into shape.)
- You can add some handfuls of sand to weigh down the cardboard.
- Cover with mulch. This will look neat and intentional and can wait weeks, months, or even years until you're ready to plant it. The cardboard and sod will decompose over time. No need to remove them.

