Wilcox Nursery & LANDSCAPE

Grassassination

How to remove unwanted grass

Method 1: Sheet Mulching

This method avoids using herbicides. It is very effective to remove all vegetation for large areas. The cardboard provides continued weed suppression for several months. Cardboard breaks down over time while most landscape fabrics do not. Weeds will grow on top of and embed into landscape fabric, making them difficult to remove. You can repeat the sheet mulching process on a smaller scale if neglected beds get overrun with weeds.

1. Cut grass as short as possible
2. Lay down cardboard with edges overlapping
    a. Tips and Tricks:
        i. Boxes are available free from retail stores. Free, used moving boxes can be found in online classifieds (CarigsList, Facebook Marketplace, etc)
        ii. Bigger boxes leave less cracks for weeds to grow through. Furniture stores often have very large boxes available.
        iii. Remove tape to keep plastics from being added into your yard
        iv. Wetting the cardboard helps with tape removal and getting it laid flat
3. Add 3-4” of mulch on top of cardboard
4. Allow 4-6 weeks for the grass to die
5. Plant through the cardboard
6. Water new plants at the base because cardboard blocks water flow until it breaks down



Low-cost bulk mulch may be available from your city



Plastic sheeting traps heat to kill weeds and grass

Method 2: Solarization

This method also avoids the use of herbicides. Clear plastic sheeting laid over an area traps in heat and blocks water, killing the grass or weeds underneath.

1) Cut the grass as short as possible
2) Lay down 2-6 mil clear plastic sheeting over the area
    1. Place heavy objects along corners to hold the sheet down
3) Leave the sheet in place for 4-6 weeks
4) Remove the sheet and add 3” of mulch immediately to suppress weeds

Method 3: Grass Specific Herbicide

Herbicide, when used correctly, can safely kill grass or other vegetation. It is helpful for people who may not have the physical ability to do sheet mulching, solarization, or hand-pulling/digging. Grass specific herbicide is an excellent choice for removing grass that is encroaching into beds or non-grass groundcover.

1. Trim or mow grass
    a. This step is important to get the grass into a growing phase to make the herbicide work its best
2. 7 days later, spray with herbicide
    a. Use 0.5 oz of Grass Out Max or Fusilade II plus 0.33 oz Spreader Sticker per 1 gallon of water
        i. Spreader Sticker is a surfactant that helps the herbicide mix adhere to leaves.
    b. Spray when no rain is forecast for the day
    c. Avoid spraying plants. Although grass specific herbicides won't hurt most herbaceous plants, some may be affected.
        i. Tip: Use a sheet of cardboard to block plants from overspray
3. Grass should be dead after 2 weeks. If any grass is still alive, repeat the cycle.
    a. Torpedo grass is especially tenacious so 2-3 initial applications may be required with touch-ups 1-2 times a year after.
4. Hand pull what you can on a weekly basis to reduce the amount of herbicide



Grassout Max, Spreader sticker, and Fusillade II.

Method 4: Broad Spectrum Herbicide

Broad spectrum herbicide will kill all vegetation, including your landscape plants. It can be used areas that have multiple types of vegetation growing, such as weeds mixed in with grass. It is often used when time is limited because it takes only 2 weeks to prepare a bed. We may also recommend it for invasive plants, such as Mexican Petunia.

1. Spray the area following the instructions on the label
    a. Safety: make sure to follow use and storage directions. Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when necessary.
2. Wait 2 weeks before planting and adding 2-3" of mulch