

ON LAWN REPLACEMENT

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Beautiful, green lawns may have their place (in moderation, of course!) but, when “reducing”...

*LOSE THE SOD BUT SAVE THE TREES! **

There are many ways to remove sod. Commonly, a broad-spectrum herbicide is sprayed, theoretically killing the sod while saving trees and surrounding plants. Personally, I am skeptical about both the efficacy and safety of using herbicides and pesticides although they are legal and readily available for home use. Over twenty years ago, I allowed their use in my garden. Hardy grasses and weeds survived the attack of chemicals. There really is no better means than mechanical, in my opinion. Besides, good, hard physical work (in moderation, of course!) may reap health benefits. Two years ago, my lawn was removed to a depth of 5 inches using mattocks and shovel. In a few pesky spots, I still grub out clumps of Bermuda grass.

Whether you ultimately use chemical or mechanical means to remove sod in your garden, be sensitive to trees and other surrounding landscape. The root system of many trees and shrubs tends to be rather shallow when enjoying frequent irrigation of surrounding or nearby lawns. Even if shallow-rooted, I believe trees' health can be maintained by not disturbing the entire root system at once. Consider removing the lawn in phases, perhaps in a pleasing pattern of spokes or concentric circles. Also, if you will remove lawn sprinklers, be sure to address replacement irrigation for any trees nearby. *For best tree care, consult a Certified Arborist.*

For more information on lawn replacement choices and strategies, visit <http://freshdirt.sunset.com/> where several recent blog posts have addressed this popular topic.

* Without Using Glyphosate.

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