

Grass to Garden: Step by Step

Steps + Resources



Materials

- **Landscape Design**
- **Possible Lawn Removal Tools**
 - Sod cutter -or-
 - Clear, plastic sheeting (1-2mm thick) for solarization -or-
 - Newspaper/cardboard for sheet mulching -or-
 - Shovel / trowel
- **Compost**
 - 1 cubic yard spread out over 100 sq. ft. (1.5-3" layer)
- **Irrigation**
 - Retrofit kit (Rain Bird 1800 Retro)
 - Tubing (¼" and ½")
 - Emitters
 - Irrigation caps for remaining heads
- **Plants**
 - Garden In A Box
- **Mulch**
 - 1 cubic yard per 324 sq. ft., 1 inch deep (you want a 2-4" layer)

1. **Plan** – A plan provides direction and guidance to ensure that water-conserving techniques are coordinated and implemented. Hydrozones and irrigation zones are also important to know and plan around!
 - [Plant Select - Downloadable Designs](#)
 - [How to Find Sprinkler Zones – Program Controller](#)
 - [CSU Extension Fact Sheet - Xeriscaping: Retrofit Your Yard](#)
2. **Remove Lawn** – There are a lot of different ways to remove grass - take a look at which option may suit your project best!
 - [A Guide to Identifying & Removing Lawn Types - Videos by SoCal Water Smart](#)
 - [Resource Central - Lawn Removal 101](#)
3. **Amend Soil.** – This may not be necessary (most of our plants love the soil just the way it is!), but we recommend compost as an amendment.
 - [CSU Extension Fact Sheet - Choosing a Soil Amendment](#)
 - [CSU Soil Testing Lab](#)
 - [Castle Pines North - Principles of Xeriscape \(Step 2: Soil Preparation\)](#)
4. **Irrigation Efficiency** – Understand the ins and outs of your system, and how to switch from spray to drip.
 - [Drip Depot - Convert from Spray to Drip Irrigation](#)
 - [Rain Bird - Spray to Drip Conversion](#)
 - [CSU Extension Fact Sheet - Drip Irrigation for Home Gardens](#)
5. **Select Appropriate Plants** – Garden In A Box makes this easy ([Garden In A Box website](#)) and here are some other options as well!
 - [Plant Select - Water-Wise Plants](#)
 - [Town of Castle Rock - Plant Finder](#)
 - [CSU Extension Fact Sheet - Xeriscaping: Perennial and Annual Flowers](#)
6. **Mulch** – 2-4" of mulch in your garden helps prevent weeds and minimizes evaporation.
 - [CSU Extension Fact Sheet - Mulches for Home Grounds](#)
 - [Better Homes & Gardens - How to Mulch](#)
7. **Maintenance** – Weeding, proper irrigation, pruning, and pest control are just a few things to consider!
 - [Castle Pines North - Principles of Xeriscape \(Step 7: Maintenance\)](#)
 - [Town of Castle Rock - Maintain Your Xeriscape](#)
 - [Water Use It Wisely - How to Maintain Your Landscape to Keep it Growing Strong](#)