



# SHEET MULCH PROCESS

(See bottom of the page for terms)

1. DIG A SMALL TRENCH AROUND THE LAWN
  - a. The edges of the lawn are the most common areas for grass to return
  - b. Dig the trench at least six to eight inches wide and four inches deep
2. MOW THE LAWN AT THE LOWEST SETTING
  - a. This will reduce regrowth and make laying your weed barrier easier
3. LAY DOWN WEED BARRIER
  - a. Cardboard is recommended since it will break down over time and increase soil health
    - i. Landscape fabric is acceptable
4. USE LANDSCAPE STAKES TO PIN-DOWN WEED BARRIER
  - a. While barrier is down, map out the sun and shade pattern for future plantings
    - i. Take photos of the same location throughout a single day to find the pattern
5. CONVERT SPRINKLERS TO DRIP
  - a. For any trees or shrubs that were watered by sprinklers, convert that area to drip
  - b. Cap the remaining sprinklers
  - c. Install a pressure reducer for each valve that has drip irrigation
    - i. This will reduce the flow of water, preventing breaks in your drip system
6. ORDER COMPOST AND MULCH
  - a. Reach out to your local arborist, or participate in the city program
7. SHOVEL COMPOST ONTO WEED BARRIER
  - a. Keep the compost and mulch away from the base of trees and plants
8. SHOVEL MULCH ONTO COMPOST
  - a. Make sure mulch fully covers the compost so that the compost cannot be seen
9. BEGIN PLANNING FOR NEW PLANTS!
  - a. See our "Post-Sheet Mulch Process" document

## Terms

- Compost – a type of organic material derived from broken-down plants and food scraps
- Drip – a type of irrigation that uses small tubes and emitters to deliver water efficiently to plants
- Emitter – a small device that supplies water directly to individual plants at the end of a drip line
- Landscape Fabric – a polyester sheet of fabric used to smother and kill grass
- Mulch – organic material from trees that is cut up into small pieces to provide landscape cover
- Pressure Reducer – a device installed on irrigation valves to reduce water flow
- Weed Barrier – cardboard or landscape fabric used to smother and kill grass