

# *Lasagna Gardening*



Containers, raised beds, stock tanks, strawberry beds or surrounding straw bales can be employed to help contain your layered garden. But some people just layer in a wide open place in the yard using a keyhole design so all areas of the garden can be accessed for maintenance and harvesting.

Start with a sunny spot and lay down a grass barrier out of cardboard or 10 sheets of newspaper and water thoroughly.

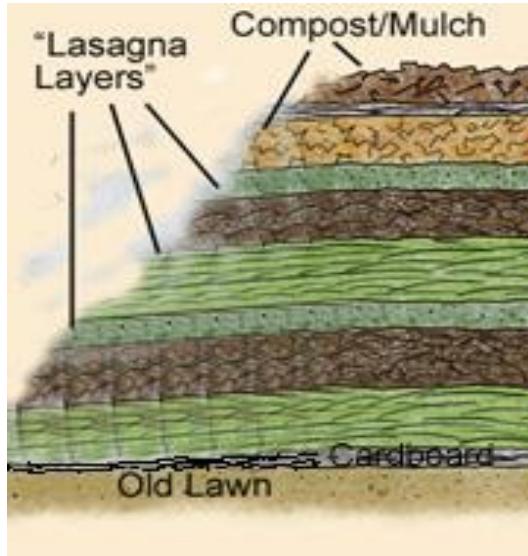
Next, layer 2 inches of greens (such as manure, compost, fresh green plant clippings, grass clippings, and coffee grounds).

Next, layer 2 inches of browns (such as straw, fall leaves, shredded newspapers, sawdust, tea bags or mulch. Water thoroughly.

Repeat the green and brown layers again.

On the top of the final brown layer apply a 3-4 inch layer of finished compost or purchased topsoil. This is where your seeds and seedlings will grow initially until the layers below are penetrated by roots and broken down.

The top most layer is another 2 inches of compost of straw, leaves, sawdust, or wood chips to lock in moisture and protect the sun from draining nutrients from your precious bed.



Finally, provide plenty of water so all the layers are soaked. Water activates the decomposition process, attracts worms and helps all the layers share nutrients.

Let this new bed set a few weeks before you plant.

Some gardeners start in the fall and let the bed overwinter. A cover crop of fall rye or clover adds nitrogen.

Just remember to periodically give the bed a boost of coffee grounds and kitchen greens, bone meal, lime or worm castings.

For more information and photos see -

<http://permaculturenews.org/2012/07/20/gorgeous-gardens-from-garbage-how-to-build-a-sheet-mulch/>

Reference / Sources:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu>

<http://extension.psu.edu/> (PennState)

<http://permaculturenews.org/> (Permaculture Research Institute, Australia)