

Lawn Removal Methods

Method	Pros	Cons
Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • least effort • effective in shady or treed areas • least soil disturbance • no cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • takes time • may be least effective, requiring follow-up weed removal • will not work in moist or wet areas or with weedy Bermuda grass • too gradual for rebates
Mechanical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chemical-free • can do anytime and can garden immediately after removal • can work gradually • low cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • soil disturbance, loss of some top-soil • less effective, especially with bermuda grass, requiring extensive follow-up weed removal • labor-intensive • disposal of weedy green waste
Smother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creates loamy soil • can make use of biodegradable yard waste • mulch covering gives a finished, neat look to project • chemical-free 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loamy, organic-rich soil is not ideal for desert, chaparral, or scrub plants, and may exacerbate future weed problems • labor-intensive • requires material for sheets and mulch
Solarization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective • chemical-free • kills many weed seeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plastic has environmental cost and can be expensive • takes time, must be done in summer • labor-intensive • steam heat kills microbials near the surface, creates disturbance conditions • not effective on certain seeds with hard shells (many weeds in legume family) and some buried propogules (bermuda grass stems)
Poison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • highly effective • easy to apply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expensive • environmental and health risks associated with chemicals • takes time; glyphosate must be applied while plants are actively growing, may need up to 3 applications