

Lawn: Cut It out or Cook It down?



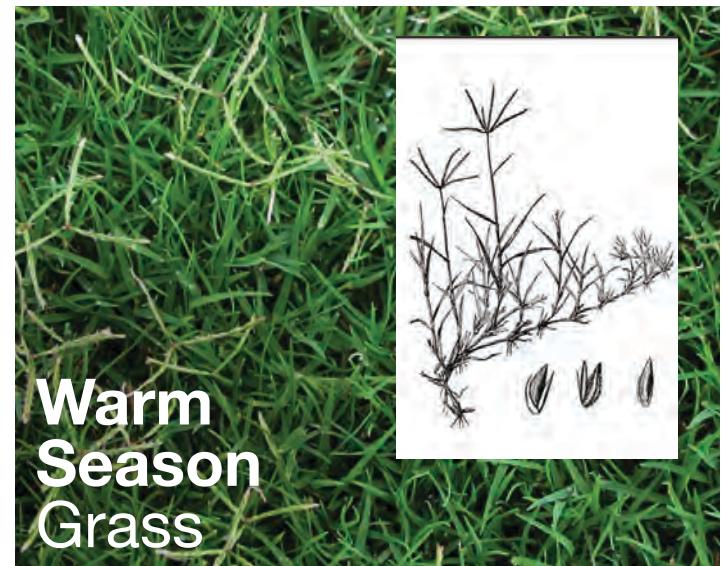
Cool Season Grass

This grass requires water in the hot summer or it will die.

Typically these grasses grow as bunch grasses and propagate by seed or weak stolons. Cool season grasses are smothered easily by sheet mulching with 4" - 6" of mulch.

Varieties include: Bent Grass (*Agrostis*), Fescue varieties (*Festuca* varieties,) Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*).

Cool season grass needs more water than warm season grass and is considered a HIGH water use plant.



Warm Season Grass

This grass grows best in warmer periods of the year.

This grass hits its stride when temperatures exceed 80°F, but will go dormant (golden brown) in the winter time when rainy and cool.

Typically these grasses grow from sturdy rhizomes extending deep underground. Warm season grasses require physical removal and/or intensive sheet mulching using at least 6" - 12" of mulch.

Varieties include Bermuda Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), Buffalo Grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*), St. Augustine Grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*), Zoysia, and Seashore Paspalum.

Warm season grass is a MODERATE water use plant.



Cook It

if you have cool season grass.

If your lawn is a cool season turf, you can leave it in place and sheet mulch following the Soil Lasagna Recipe (see pp. 39-40) to cook your grass away. **This might take up to four months to complete.** If you want to speed things up a bit, cut out the grass with a sod cutter and then sheet mulch to restore your soil.

Rent a Sod Cutter

Most large box stores or hardware stores have sod cutters available for rent. Sod cutters are heavy equipment and may need a truck for delivery.



Cut It

if you have warm season grass.

If you have any combination of the warm season grasses, you have a bigger project ahead of you. You'll need to remove the grass, as much of the roots as you can, and perhaps even the top few inches of soil as you try to get rid of the roots.

The best way to do this is with a sod cutter. A sod cutter, dumpster to remove the cut sod, and other equipment can be rented. Once you've cut it out and disposed of it properly, you can get cooking using the Soil Lasagna Recipe to build the healthy soil. **If you cut out the sod, you can plant as soon as you finish contouring and sheet mulching! No need to wait.**