



Lawns to Legumes Individual Support

A Quick Guide to Site Preparation

Get your yard ready for your pollinator planting!

Option 1: Sod Removal

Manually remove your existing vegetation using a sod kicker; then turn, loosen, and rake the soil. After applying a layer of mulch to help suppress weeds, plant your new plants. (We recommend double-shredded hardwood mulch.)

Choose this option if:

- ✓ You want to prepare your site quickly
- ✓ You're working with a smaller space

Avoid this option if:

- You're working with a larger space
- You want to minimize manual labor

Option 2: Sheet Mulching

Suppress existing vegetation by "sheet mulching" with a layer of cardboard covered with mulch. This suffocates the grass beneath. When you're ready to plant, brush aside the mulch and cut small holes into the cardboard to dig a hole for each plant.

Choose this option if:

- ✓ You have several months to prep your site
- ✓ You want to minimize maintenance time

Avoid this option if:

- You're planting on a steep slope
- Your site contains aggressive weeds

Option 3: Solarization

"Solarize" your planting area by covering it in a clear plastic sheet. The sun's heat becomes trapped underneath the plastic, smothering existing vegetation and weed seeds. Solarization is most effective when begun in early to late spring. Remove the plastic and any remaining weeds in fall, and immediately mulch and plant.

Choose this option if:

- ✓ You're planting in a sunny, relatively flat site
- ✓ You're dealing with high weed pressure

Avoid this option if:

- You're planting in a shady or wet site
- You only have one season to plant

Get detailed site prep guidance from the Xerces Society's [Organic Site Preparation Guide](#).