

## Gardening Tips

### Newspaper to Kill Grass

**By John Ferguson**

Many years ago I decided to get rid of all the grass in my back yard and turn it into landscaped areas. To save labor and to improve the heavy black gumbo clay soil I Used fresh ground native mulch.

First, I took newspapers and opened them up. I placed a 5-6 page thick layer of newspapers on top of the grass (mixed St. Augustine and Bermuda). Next I overlapped the papers by one third and then placed a 5-6" thick layer of fresh ground native mulch on top of the newspapers as I moved along (this kept the newspapers from blowing away).

I repeated the process until all the grass was covered. I then watered the mulch to make it heavy so it would press the paper tightly onto the grass and smother it. In a few months over 99% of the grass was dead and decomposed and the first few inches of the clay had been broken down into a rich soil.