

SHEET MULCHING

WHAT TO DO

- SLASH LONG GRASS AND WEEDS, MOW LAWN AND LEAVE CLIPPINGS IN PLACE
- WET WHOLE AREA THOROUGHLY
- ADD SOME AGRICULTURAL LIME
- SOAK PAPER, CARDBOARD, UNDERFELT OR EVEN OLD CARPET. LAY OVERLAPPING SHEETS OVER WHOLE AREA
- MARK OUT PATHS WITH LIME, STONE, BRICKS OR TIMBER
- THROW ANY ORGANIC WASTE SUCH AS GRASS CLIPPINGS, GARDEN SCRAPS OR WEEDS ON GARDEN BED
- ADD OLD HAY OR GRASS TO 15cm DEEP
- ADD 10-15cm OF ROTTED MANURE, COMPOST OR MUSHROOM COMPOST (ALWAYS DIFFICULT TO GET ENOUGH!)
- ADD LAYER OF CLEAN WEED-FREE MULCH (10cm) SUCH AS STRAW, RICE HULLS, OAT HUSKS OR SUNFLOWER HUSKS

WHY DO IT

- CLIPPINGS DECOMPOSE AND ADD ORGANIC MATTER TO THE SOIL
- RAIN WON'T REACH THE SOIL THROUGH THE LAYERS
- HELPS BIND ANY HEAVY METALS SO THEY CANNOT BE TAKEN UP BY PLANTS
- STOPS WEEDS AND ADDS MORE ORGANIC MATTER TO THE SOIL
- PREVENTS BEDS BEING BUILT OVER PATHS
- IT WILL ALSO DECOMPOSE AND TURN INTO HUMUS
- MORE COMPOST TO TURN INTO HUMUS
- IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF PLANT NUTRIENTS
- HOLD WATER IN, RETAIN VOLATILE NUTRIENTS, PROTECT SEEDLINGS, SOIL TEMPERATURE CONTROL

WHAT IT LOOKS LI

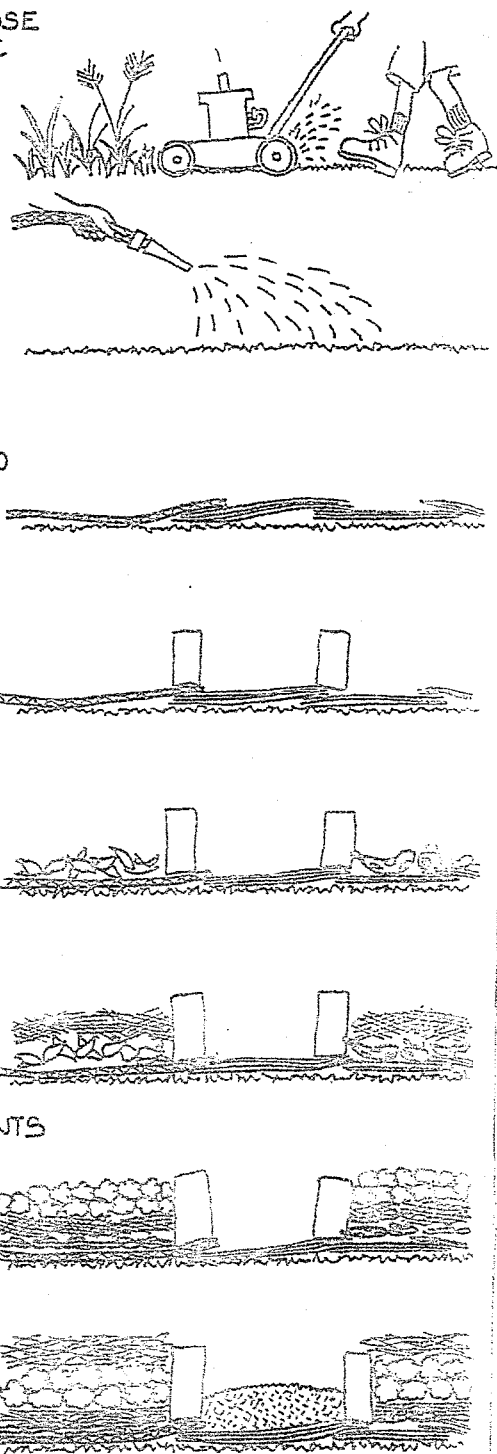


Fig. 12.4 Sheet mulching