

GARDENING TIP

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Lawn clippings for weed control in the garden

An alternative to putting black plastic around your plants to control weeds, is to collect the grass clippings when you mow the lawn, and keep making layers of the clippings all around your plants. The weeds will not come up through the grass clippings. Added bonus: by next spring, the clippings will have turned into wonderful mulch for next year.

This will especially kill grass coming up in your garden. As long as you do not let the weed or grass have any light, they will just die.

To use this method just take the clippings after mowing and carefully place them around

the plants. If there are already some weeds you don't have to pull the weeds and risk damaging the plant roots. Just cut the weeds off at ground level and then cover them with the grass clippings. They will start to grow again but can not come up through the grass clippings. It actually creates a mat. I like to put the grass clippings on the walk way in between the rows too. That way there is no weeding at all.

Then in the fall you just till your garden and the rotting grass makes wonderful mulch to break up your soil and make the soil more able to absorb and hold moisture. After doing this for several years your soil will be very black and loamy.

I also use leaves in the fall to do this. I cover up the plants like asparagus that have grass in them and then in the spring the leaves have created such a thick mat that the weeds will not come up through it, but the asparagus will.

WARNING: Not all plants will come up through this mat. For example you do not want to do this in the raspberry patch. Wait until spring when all the new plants have come up and are well established. Then put the lawn clippings or leaves around the established plants. Raspberries and similar plants will not come up through the grass or leaf mat just the same as grass or weeds will not.

This photo shows how there are no weeds in the walk way between my plants because of the grass clipping / leaf mat that I have put down:



Here is the asparagus bed I covered with leaves in the fall to kill the grass:



Here are the asparagus coming up though the leaves:

