NO-TILL GARDENING
BUILD YOUR GARDEN BED NOW FOR SPRING PLANTING
Caring for your soil with a “top down” approach

Reasons this method works best:
- Fewer weeds by keeping the soil completely covered; weeds will not grow
- Less time and effort fighting the weeds. You do not till the soil. The layers decompose naturally to form “friable” soil. (Friable soil is soil that has the crumbly texture that is ideal for the root growth of plants.)

Best time to start is in the fall: This allows time for layers to decompose and become soil in time for spring planting.

1. Select Site: Choose a garden site that is exposed to approximately 6-8 hours of sun per day.

2. Cover It: Using newspapers and/or cardboard, layer the paper in a “lasagna” like pattern to insure it isn’t easily disturbed. Lay 4-6 pieces of newspaper or 2-3 layers of cardboard. You just want to be certain that the soil is completely covered. You are creating enough of a barrier so the weeds cannot creep through the paper.

3. Build your layers alternating with Green and Brown materials:

   **Greens Materials:** Green materials for composting consist mostly of wet or recently growing organic materials. Green materials are often green in color, but not always. Examples of green materials include: Food scraps, grass clippings, coffee grounds, manure, and recently pulled weeds.
   Green materials will supply most of the nutrients that will make your compost good for your garden.
   Green materials are high in nitrogen.

   **Browns Materials:** Use dry or woody plant material such as: dry leaves, wood chips, straw, sawdust, corn stalks, and newspaper.
   Brown materials help to add bulk and help allow air to circulate in the compost.
   Brown materials are also the source of carbon in your compost pile.

   - Layer 1: Cardboard/newspaper
   - Layer 2: Browns
   - Layer 3: Greens
   - Layer 4: Browns
   - Layer 5: Greens

4. Spring Planting Time: The layers have decomposed and the bed is ready to be planted!

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