

SHEET MULCHING 101 with Limestone Permaculture

1/ Peg out or using water based line marking paint to mark out the area to be sheet mulched (hopefully this is part of your overall Permaculture design)

2/ Two options > either mow down hard just prior to laying sheet mulch or if you have 'pure wool' carpet stored for just this job, lay out weeks prior to kill or weaken the grass, then remove as you make your way around.

3/ Apply the harshest of manures - Turkey & Chicken along with a good helping of Blood & Bone. (this will speed up decomposition of grass under cardboard / paper & eventually make a nutrient rich layer ready for fruit & nut trees.)



4/ Wet immediate area to be covered and apply cardboard / newspaper. Ideally you will have raided your local white goods store for those super large fridge & freezer boxes giving you about 8m2 for each box.(best to only do manageable sections at a time & wet down so it doesn't move or blow away)





5/ Apply the cheapest hay available in either the 'biscuit' tile method or the 'pulled apart' method (preferably buy hay prior to seed heads forming and store outdoors > bales are best when aged & part broken down by rain)



6/Layer should be around 100mm (4 inch) thick when settled! Completely hose in!!!

**** Now the important 'Edging' steps ****

7/ Apply an additional hay bale 'biscuit' around the edge of your mulched zone (adds another 100mm {4 inch}) as this will be where you plant your comfrey to create a whipper snipper free edging.



8/ In each 'Biscuit' open a hole about 200mm (8inches) diameter and all the way down to the hay biscuit below. (go a little way into this as well)

9/ Drop about 1 to 2 shovels full of soil or compost into this hole until level.

10/ Plant your comfrey seedling & water well.





NOTE: This will eventually give you a beautiful edge that will prevent grass from passing through to your mulch garden area.

Not to mention providing comfrey for composting & medicinal use with farm animals. Just mow up to edge where grass meet comfrey, this will give you a great start to your compost (if you use a catcher)



**** Now for the inner mulched zone ****

Here you can decide where your perennials (fruit & nut trees) are to go and with the left over available space you can add annual soil mounds to grow out pumpkins, squash, cucumbers etc

Or you can even lay your seed potatoes out straight onto the initial layer of hay in any spare space, add a little compost (hand full) & organic fertiliser (sprinkle) over each potato, then throw another full layer of hay over top and water in for some easy potatoes whilst your trees mature 😊:)

