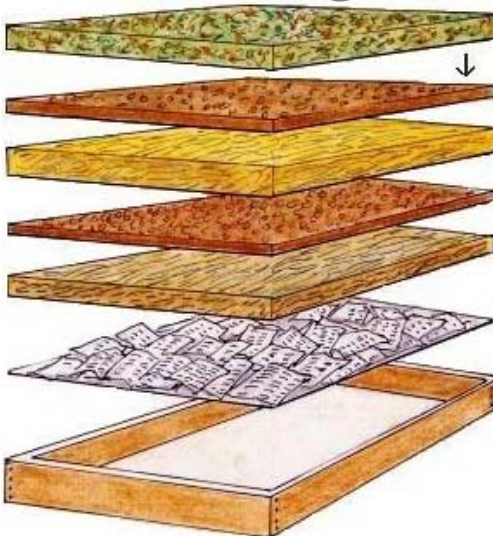


NO DIG GARDENING

The idea of digging seems to put some people off gardening, so as an alternative you can create a 'no dig' garden as a quick, easy way to create a vegetable garden. The theory behind 'no dig' gardening is that soil is best left undisturbed. 'No dig' gardening methods attempt to recreate the forest floor environment by adding layers of organic matter on top of the soil and encouraging worms to move up through the layers to do the digging and aerating the soil for you. The various layers restrict weeds from growing up through the soil.

Compost or mulch is used as the basis of the 'no dig' garden. Mulch is any material laid on top of the soil to protect it from heavy rain, hot sun and drying winds. Mulch can be: newspaper, seaweed, leaf litter, cardboard, sawdust (untreated), grass clippings, old sacks, fine bark, pea straw, hay and wool.

Creating A No Dig Garden



Layer 8: Weed-free layer, 50-75mm of compost or mulch.

Layer 7: 100-150mm of grass clippings, leaves, pine needles, old straw, hay. Water well.

Layer 6: 100-150mm of seaweed, aged manure or compost.

Layer 5: 100-150mm of grass clippings, leaves, pine needles, old straw, hay. Water well.

Layer 4: Sprinkle ground with manure, compost or lime.

Layer 3: Hard layer: 1cm thick of newspapers, cardboard, or 100% wool carpet. Overlap completely and water

Layer 2: Existing mown lawn. Leave slashed weeds and grass-clippings to decay under layer 3.

Layer 1: loosen the soil with a spade or fork.

Creating a garden doesn't need to be expensive. Edging around the vegetable garden is useful to providing a weed barrier and can be made out of old materials such as bricks, broken concrete, railway sleepers, tyres or wooden pallets.