

## Minimal-till Gardening

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## Why till the garden?

- Weed Suppression
- Able to incorporate organic material
- Easy to plant in, breaks up soil
- Adds oxygen



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## Why to consider no-till?

- SOIL HEALTH
  - Increased organic matter
  - Increase soil organisms
  - Improved water percolation and drainage
  - Improved soil aeration
  - Better root development
  - Better resistance to wind and water erosion



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## HOW TO START OR CONVERT YOUR GARDEN TO NO-TILL

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## Burndown of an area

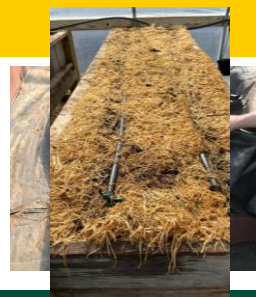
- Use in a new garden
- Cut grass short (if starting area in the fall)
- Use glyphosate



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## Solarization

- Utilized in a new area
- Cover the area with a clear plastic covering for least 10 days
- Suffocate the sun with black tarp or cardboard



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## Converting to no-till

Stop tilling

Remove diseased material,  
but leave healthy material



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## Landscaping Fabric

1. Cover area with landscape fabric
2. Use a propane torch to make holes for plants or seeds
3. Plant directly into the holes made
4. May still get weeds in the area exposed
5. Consider mulching around the plant once it has emerged and is growing
6. May need to remove every few years and add in organic matter



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## Lasagna Method

- Cover ground with newspaper/cardboard
- Spread 1-2 inch of green material
- Add brown material 1-2 inches
- Alternate between green and brown materials



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## Materials to use

### Brown

- Dry leaves
- Aged hay & straw
- Newspaper
- Chipped wood
- Dried grass
- Shredded paper
- Sawdust

### Green

- Veggie scraps
- Fruit peels/rinds
- Coffee grounds
- Manure
- Fresh grass
- Plant greens
- Egg shells

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## Converting to no-till

- Collect organic matter
  - Leaves, wood chips, bark, corn stalks, straw, etc
  - Newspaper, cardboard
  - Compost
- Layer the mulch 8-10 inches



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## Advice

- Know that there will be some soil disturbance
- Create living walkways
- Keep the ground covered at all times
- Rotate crops
- Utilize cover cropping

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## Putting the Garden to Bed

- Remove disease plant material
- Can cut back the other plants back to ground level the roots will decompose over the winter
- Cover Crops
- It's important to have the soil always covered!

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## Cover Crops



Carrots



Sweet Potatoes

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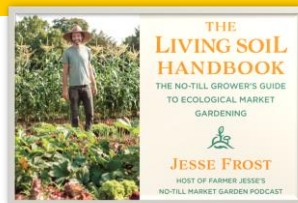
## Living Pathways

- Leave native grass
- Clovers
- Mallow
- Chamomile
- May consider mowing
- May consider hoeing the edges



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## Resource for additional information



- <https://www.youtube.com/@notillgrowers/featured>

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Thank you!  
Questions?

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