

Alternative Methods

Bermudagrass is invasive and very persistent. Alternative methods such as solarizing, vinegar sprays, smothering, digging out, tilling, or using sod cutters are likely to be less effective on their own, but may have better success when combined.

Tips

- Turning off the water to your lawn is not a good way to kill grass. Bermuda lawns have deep root systems, which can continue to live for years on rain alone. You must take additional action to overcome your lawn's instinct to survive.
- Using black plastic and granite to kill or control grass is not recommended because the plastic deteriorates over time, creating an unsightly and hard-to-clean landscape.
- Avoid soil sterilizers or complete vegetation killers, as they can harm nearby plants. Use a selective herbicide to target grass growing near valued trees and shrubs and include a water-soluble colorant so you can see where you have already sprayed.
- Before installing a new landscape, remove 2-4 inches of dead grass or soil near hardscaped areas to prevent rock/granite spillover. Grass sprinkler systems can be converted to drip systems.

Desert Resilience and Invasive Plants

Did you know that Bermudagrass can become invasive in certain settings? Bermudagrass that escapes your lawn and enters neighboring desert areas can alter the natural ecosystem, challenging native plants, and even creating an increased risk of wildfire. Limiting the use of Bermudagrass and opting for native plants can reduce wildfire risks in your community.

This information has been adapted by the City of Phoenix Water Services Department and informed by the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association's "Good Reasons to Take Out Your Grass" pamphlet.

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Find cash to remove your grass and help to prevent leaky landscaping here:

phoenix.gov/SaveWaterIncentives



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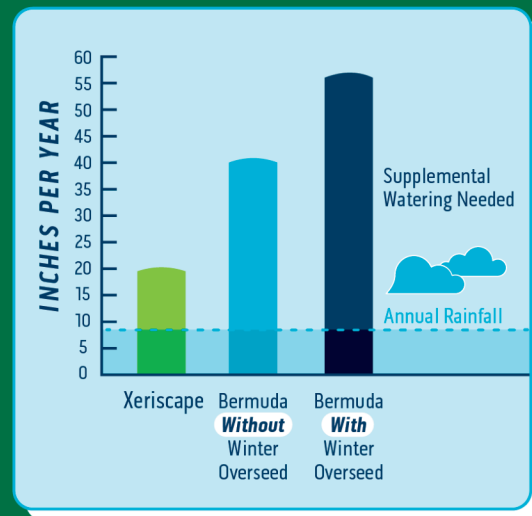
Goodbye Grass
HELLO WATER SAVINGS!

Thinking of Ditching Your Grass?

Say Hello to Lower Water Bills, Less Yard Work,
and the Beauty of Water-Saving Xeriscape!

Will I save water?

Yes! Converting to xeriscape can reduce outdoor water use by 50% or more. Bermudagrass lawns need over 55 inches of water annually (with overseed) or 40 inches (without), while xeriscapes require less than 18 inches, compared to an average rainfall of 8 inches.



Save time, plan ahead

Creating a landscape plan will ensure your new xeriscape yard fits your needs, preferences, and budget while avoiding costly mistakes.

Getting Rid of the Grass

Bermudagrass is an invasive grass that can be extremely difficult to get rid of, which is one reason it does so well in our desert climate. After months of appearing dead, Bermudagrass can spring back to life when water is applied. The most effective way to eliminate it is through careful use of appropriate herbicides.

WHAT TO USE:

Herbicides with glyphosate, found in brands like DOOMSDAY™, KLEENUP™, and ROUNDUP™, are effective against bermudagrass. Glyphosphate works best when applied to blades of grass, not soil.

WHEN TO TREAT:

The best time to eliminate Bermudagrass is June through September when temperatures exceed 80°F and the grass is growing actively. This will ensure effective herbicide uptake.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Before applying herbicide, fertilize and water the grass to ensure it is green and actively growing.
- Do not scalp or mow the grass while you are promoting growth.
- When your grass is actively growing, apply herbicide on a windless day, following the product directions carefully.
- Use cardboard or plastic to shield desirable plants in tight areas while spraying.
- Spray in the early morning for best results.
- Wait 24 hours before resuming normal watering to prepare for a second application.

BE PATIENT!

- Allow 10–14 days for the herbicide to work; the lawn will turn brown within two weeks.
- Multiple applications are usually needed.
- Turn the water back on to identify regrowth and apply herbicide again to those areas.
- Two weeks after the second herbicide application, scalp the lawn with a mower set very low.
- Use a power rake if the dead grass is very thick, to remove as much grass as possible.
- Spot-treat any areas where grass returns at least once a month.

