Lasagna Gardening in the Fall for Spring Planting

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Good soil structure is important for gardening success. Your time and effort pay off when your garden soil allows water movement, air circulation, root penetration, healthy microorganisms, and available nutrients. Lasagna Gardening is a no-dig, no-till organic gardening method that creates nutrient-rich soil by layering organic materials. The benefits of lasagna gardening include less labor, loose, fertile soil, easier maintenance, beneficial microbes, plant health, lower cost, and advantages for those with physical limitations.

The steps to create a lasagna garden include:
1. Lay cardboard to cover your desired garden area and water the cardboard.
2. Add a brown mulch (carbon-rich) layer.
3. Add a green mulch (nitrogen-rich) layer.
4. Continue layering util a depth of 1 – 2 feet.
5. Wait – give it time.

Note - The brown layers should be 2 – 3 times as thick as the green layers.

Fall is a wonderful time to prepare a garden bed for spring planting. Leaves are starting to drop from the trees, providing carbon-rich material, and the grass continues to grow in cooler temperatures, providing nitrogen-rich clippings.

Brown (carbon) material examples
1. Chopped dry leaves
2. Wood shavings / sawdust
3. Shredded cardboard / paper
4. Dry yard waste or straw
5. Compost



Green (nitrogen) material examples
1. Fresh grass clippings
2. Green leaves / garden trimmings
3. Fruit and vegetable scraps
4. Coffee grounds, tea
5. Barnyard animal manure

All materials used should be disease- and herbicide-free.

References:
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