

After ordering your Garden by Number box, follow these steps to get your yard ready for planting your new garden. Participants will need to purchase the additional materials below to complete the project. For location for cardboard, mulch, and compost supplies go to: <http://www.zone7water.com/conservation-rebates/water-conservation>. Please use this list to check off items needed, and tasks completed.

Additional Materials to Purchase (amounts listed are per Garden by Number Box)

- 150 - 175 square feet of cardboard. Cardboard can be recycled or purchased from a local nursery or business.
- 10 - 15 cubic feet (0.3 – 0.5 cubic yards) of compost.
- 1.25 cubic yards of mulch (woodchips, leaves, and/or chipped plant debris). Avoid using dyed bark.
- Drip irrigation emitter, hose, etc.
- Sprinkler/drip irrigation converter kit.

1. Choose Planting Site

- Choose an area that will fit with your desired layout, such as a corner spot most visible to the street or a spot in your lawn that is struggling. With most layouts, it is best to plant along edge of a hardscape like a sidewalk or driveway to capture and reduce lawn irrigation overspray and runoff.
- Make sure the planting area is on its own irrigation zone.
- Mow the area to ½" to prepare for sheet mulching.

2. Prepare Site

- Water the area well for several days prior to sheet mulching, especially if it was previously dry.
- Draw out the layout shape using marking paint or string.
- Convert your irrigation to a drip system.
 - Start by capping off any sprinkler heads in the new area that are attached to lawn irrigation zones.
 - If you are converting to a standalone drip zone, choose one or two sprinklers to attach the drip system to and cap off remaining sprinklers.
 - Ensure any remaining lawn has enough irrigation coverage.
 - If an existing irrigation zone being converted, the valve must be updated with appropriate filters and pressure regulation for new system.
- Install a divider such as bender board, metal edging, or brick pavers between the remaining lawn and planting area.
- Dig a trench along any hardscape and divider at least 8"-10" deep and 12"-18" wide. Trench 6" x 6" along any buildings or utility boxes. You can use removed lawn and soil to create mounds in the garden.
- TAKE A PICTURE ONCE THE ABOVE STEPS ARE COMPLETE TO RECEIVE REBATE.**

3. Sheet Mulch Site:

- BEGIN SHEET MULCHING PROCESS SOON AFTER YOU RECEIVE YOUR APPROVAL CODE FROM ZONE 7.**

- On a windless day, place cardboard or newspaper (5-8 sheets) over designated area, overlapping pieces like shingles. The layers should overlap by at least 8". Make sure there are no gaps or holes.
- TAKE A PICTURE ONCE THE AREA IS COVERED TO RECEIVE REBATE.**
- Apply a 1-2" thick layer of compost over the cardboard or newspaper. This will speed up decomposition of the sheet mulch material and allow for earlier planting. In total, you will need approximately 10-15 cubic feet of compost per Garden by Number box.

4. Install Drip Irrigation

- Install new drip irrigation system for new planting area.
 - For inline grid: emitter flow rate 0.6 GPH with 18" spacing. Lines installed every 18".
 - For point source: main supply line should be installed under the mulch but the lines to the individual plants need to be done post-planting. Place one 1 GPH dripper for each one gallon plant and two 1 GPH at each five gallon plant.
- Water area well to ensure the cardboard and compost are well saturated.
- TAKE A PICTURE OF THE INSTALLED IRRIGATION SYSTEM TO RECEIVE REBATE.**

5. Spread Mulch

- Spread a 3"-5" thick layer of mulch over the sheet mulch and irrigation system.
- Do not blow leaves from area during decomposition process.
- Water area thoroughly several times a week to speed up decomposition.
- TAKE A PICTURE ONCE THE SITE COVERED TO RECEIVE REBATE.**

6. Install your Garden by Number Plants

- Pick up your Garden by Number box at your selected nursery in early April. You must plant within ten days of picking up your garden box.
- Soak the plants in a bucket before planting.
- Place the plants in your chosen planting area as shown in the provided planting layout.
- Push back the mulch and cut the sheet mulch in an "X" pattern wide enough to dig a hole. Dig the planting hole twice the width and equal to the depth of the plant's rootball.
- Place the plant in the hole so that the top of the rootball is slightly above the soil. Backfill with soil from the hole, forming a slight rim at the edge of the planting hole. Replace the mulch, keeping it 6"-8" from the plant's stem.

7. Care for your Garden by Number Plants

- New plants require watering to get established, even natives and low-water plants. It can take plants up to a year to become established.
- 1-2 weeks after planting, water 15 minutes every day.
- 3-13 weeks after planting (or until the rain starts), water every other day for 25 minutes.
- After 14 weeks, water once or twice a week for a total of 50 minutes per week.
- If there is a dry spell during the winter, do periodic watering to ensure the roots have enough moisture to mature. A dry spell is less than two inches of rain per month.