What is soil? It's a mixture of clay, silt, sand, water, organic material, even living organisms. Soil can be good or poor, fine or coarse, heavy or light, but whatever kind of soil-bed you have, be sure you prepare it properly before planting your new lawn. Don't skimp on this important first step!

If you have a lawn that needs shaping up, chances are you'll be able to work wonders on it without making a completely new start.

But if your lawn has serious problems, such as areas of poor soil, terraces that are too steep, or unsatisfactory drainage, then redoing the entire lawn probably is in order. Likewise, if you have no lawn at all, follow these steps to prepare a perfect soil-bed for planting.