

Yard Waste



Proper disposal helps:

- Keep our storm drains clear, preventing flooding.
- Prevent decomposing material from leaching nutrients into stormwater and growing algae.
- Generate new soil for growing plants.



Yard waste shouldn't be wasted!

Mulch it. Mowing will create grass clippings and shredded leaves which will quickly decompose, adding nutrients and organic material back to the soil. Leave clippings on the lawn or use in your garden to prevent weeds.

Compost it. Making a compost pile from grass clippings, leaves, and food waste will create soil high in nutrients and organic material. This compost can be used for your gardens and lawn! Don't compost invasives or diseased plants.

Leave it. Rake up any large piles of leaves and then leave a thin, even layer of leaves behind to benefit your lawn and create helpful winter habitat for wildlife.

What the Duff?

In the more forested areas of your yard, leave the pine needles and leaves where they lie to make a **natural duff mulch layer** that helps prevent against erosion, creates important habitat, and adds organic matter to your topsoil.

Bag it. If you can't do the options above, most municipalities offer free yard waste and leaf disposal and some even offer curbside pickup in the fall!

Keep in Mind

Grass clippings, leaves, and other yard waste should be kept off storm drains and out of ditches and culverts to allow rain and snowmelt to flow and prevent flooding.

Keep yard waste and compost piles away from waterbodies and wetlands as they'll leach highly concentrated nutrients into the water, increasing algal growth.

Invasive plants have to be completely dried out before being added to your compost pile, otherwise they might start growing there!



Sticks and Stones

Create habitat for fish, turtles, birds, and other wildlife by **leaving branches and fallen trees where they lie in streams and wetlands.**

Use fallen branches in other areas of your yard to create habitat for birds and bunnies or use them to build fences, arches, trellises, or other natural infrastructure in your gardens and yard.

Incorporate any existing large stones and rocks into your design instead of trying to move them.

