

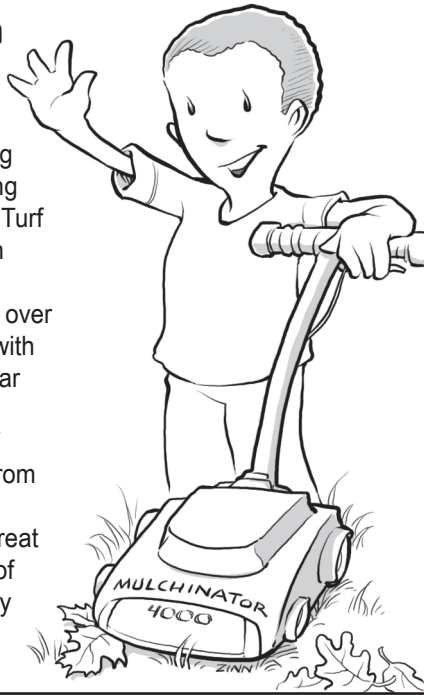


FALL LEAF MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

www.a2gov.org/leaves

1 Feed your lawn with leaves by using a mulching mower!

You don't have to rake and bag leaves this fall—use a mulching mower instead. Faculty at the Turf Research Institute at Michigan State University successfully tested using mowers to mulch over 18" of dry leaves into the turf with healthy results for the lawn year after year. Consult the web at www.a2gov.org/leaves for leaf mulching reports and videos from Scotts Lawn Care, MSU and others. Mulching leaves is a great option for properties with lots of trees and is commonly used by many golf course operators.



3 Compost at home.

An easy outdoor composting recipe is provided at www.a2gov.org/compost.



2 Use the city's weekly Compostable pickup service from April through mid-December (Dec. 16, 2011). Use bags or a compost cart for weekly compostable pickups.

Place leaves in large paper bags or use optional compost carts to set at the curb before 7 a.m. on the neighborhood weekly solid waste collection day. Compost carts may be purchased for a one-time charge of \$50 each for any size (32-, 64-, or 96-gallon cart) from the city's Customer Service & Payment Center, located in Larcom City Hall, 310 E. Huron, open weekdays 8-5, 734.994.2807. Cart information is posted online at www.a2gov.org/carts.



4 Fall leaf drop-off options for City of Ann Arbor Properties:

• **Free unlimited leaf drop off between September 1 to December 30, 2011 at the Ann Arbor Compost Center, 4150 Platt Road, open Mon-Fri, 8-4 p.m. 734.794.6380** from city residents, Ann Arbor commercial properties, and/or their contracted landscapers/haulers. To deliver leaves, please follow site signs and drive across the city's recycling plant (MRF) scale. Stop at the scalehouse window to show proof of Ann Arbor residency (drivers license and current water bill). Haulers follow a slightly different process, described online at www.a2gov.org/leaves. The free drop-off is for

Ann Arbor leaves, only. Other types of yard wastes—or leaves from non-Ann Arbor locations—are charged \$15/cubic yard.

• **Free leaf and other compostables drop-off, year-round, of up to one cubic yard (or 6 yard waste bags) at Recycle Ann Arbor's Drop-Off Station (DOS), 2950 E. Ellsworth, 734.971.7400, open Tues. and Thurs. 8:30-6:30 and Sat, 9-6** from Ann Arbor residents. To be eligible for the free yard waste drop-off and to waive the \$3 DOS entry fee, Ann Arbor residents must show proof of residency with a driver's license and a current water bill at the gatehouse window.



Frequently-Asked Questions

Why don't we store bulk leaves in the streets?

In 2010 the City of Ann Arbor transitioned away from providing two bulk street leaf pickup days per neighborhood to expanding the weekly curbside compost pickups to accommodate unlimited bagged leaves through mid-December. The benefits include:

- Providing weekly curbside leaf pickups instead of relying on two seasonal street collections.
- Avoiding problems with vehicles parking over leaves on the pickup day, impeding truck collection access, and resulting in complaints from neighborhoods with street leaves left behind for a season.
- Preventing leaves from clogging storm drains, which leads to neighborhood flooding and results in pollutants entering the Huron River, which is the primary source of the city's drinking water.
- Increasing the efficiency of leaf collection by not deploying additional specialized vehicles and staff to pick up bulk leaves.
- Increasing safety for bicyclists along marked bike lanes and other streets.
- Responding to seasonal weather variations. If warm, dry weather delays the leaf-drop or early snowfall reduces the opportunity for street collection at the end of the season, every resident gets the same weekly access to leaf pickup each year.

What are other alternatives to raking leaves to put into bags or compost carts for weekly pickup?

To eliminate raking, some people mow over leaves with the bag attached and then empty the bag into paper yard waste bags or compost carts. Some leaf blowers can be reversed to be able to vacuum and chop leaves. The partially-shredded leaves can also be used as mulch around garden and landscape areas. Home composting is another option.

I want my lawn care service to haul away my leaves.

May we rake the leaves into the street and store for a week or so until the service picks them up?

No. If you decide to use a hauling service, you may store the leaves on your extension but not in the street.

What about naturally-falling leaves in the street?

Do I have to pick up every leaf?

No. The city's street sweeping machines can handle normal amounts of leaf-fall under street trees but cannot sweep up piles of leaves.

I am not required to use a compost cart for my leaves, correct?

Correct! Paper yard waste bags may be used for leaves and other yard debris. The optional Compost Carts provide convenience in being able to roll around the yard while working. Those who choose to purchase and use a city-approved compost cart may also include more types of materials for composting—grass clippings, fruit and vegetable scraps, and uncoated paper plates, cups, and napkins for municipal collection and processing. Paper yard waste bags are not appropriate for holding these additional heavy, wet materials that easily leak and break through paper bags at the curb and can attract unwanted wildlife. Just a reminder, plastic bags are not accepted for leaves and yard waste because the contents easily go anaerobic and smell sour, and create lots of compost site operation problems. Plastic bags, however, continue to be acceptable for holding refuse in trash carts.