

Yard Waste Reduction Tips

Grass clippings, brush, leaves and other yard refuse, can make up 20% of the total waste generated by a home. Because this material is organic, it can be used as a natural nutrient for lawns and gardens. By following these tips, you will divert waste from landfill plus have a healthier lawn and garden. Grasscycling is the process of recycling grass clippings, by leaving them on the lawn.

GRASSCYCLING

- improves lawn quality by allowing grass clippings to decay normally, releasing valuable nutrients (nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus), adds water saving mulch and encourages soil aeration by earth worms.
- saves time and work, on average 35 minutes per mowing are for raking and bagging.
- any lawnmower can grasscycle if the blade is sharp, the grass is dry, cut regularly and not more than one third its height is cut per mowing.
- improper watering and fertilizing cause thatch build up (abnormally fast growth of roots and other plants) not cut grass left on the lawn, when you grasscycle.

COMPOSTING YARD WASTE

- excess grass clippings can be composted if they are added in thin layers.
- save the leaves in the Fall to add nitrogen to the compost pile all year round.
- break up small branches and twigs to speed up break down in the compost pile.
- spread a layer of leaves on the garden in the Fall, they will decompose over the Winter to provide nutrients in the Spring.
- all the above tips will save tax dollars, landfill space, and are good for the Earth.