

DON'T BAG IT!



MANAGEMENT PLAN

During the year, at least 20% of the solid waste generated by Texans comes from grass clippings, tree leaves and other landscape wastes. Bagging these materials and placing them into the curbside garbage collection system uses valuable landfill space, removes nutrients from the environment, and costs cities of Texas more in increased taxes and service fees.

The tree leaves that accumulate in and around a landscape represent a valuable natural resource that can be used to provide a good source of organic matter and nutrients for use in a landscape. Leaves contain 50-80% of the nutrients a plant extracts from the soil and air during the growing season. Although trees in one acre of forest can shed as much as two tons of leaves each fall, hang on to the leaves. Do not send this valuable treasure to the dump.

Tree leaves and other organic wastes can form a natural carpet over the soil surface which conserves moisture, modifies temperatures, and prevents soil erosion. Bacteria, fungi, and other natural occurring organisms decompose or compost the leaves and material, supplying the existing plants with a natural, slow release of nutrients.



Easy Composting Recipe

Ingredients:

- Mixed fresh yard debris
- Vegetable and fruit scraps and coffee grounds
- Rainwater and additional water, as needed

Directions:

1. Set compost bin or pile where water does not puddle when it rains, preferably in a shaded spot.
2. Put yard trimmings in bin or pile as they are collected.
3. When adding grass clippings and green garden wastes to the compost pile, mix them into the leaves and other yard materials already in the pile.
4. Moisten dry materials as they are added.
5. Bury kitchen scraps under 10 inches of yard trimmings or finished compost.
6. Optional: Cover top of compost with tarp or sheet plastic to keep it moist.

When material at the bottom looks like dark, rich soil, you have compost.

Got yard waste?

**Know the local laws
regarding proper disposal.**



141 W. Renfro • Burleson, Texas 76028





Improper disposal of yard waste is a violation of the law.

It's happening in every neighborhood; maybe at your own house, and you probably don't know that you or your neighbors are breaking the law.

After cutting the grass, many people blow or sweep grass clippings into the street or to the curblin. But the City of Burleson Code of Ordinances prohibits discharging yard waste into the storm sewer system (including streets, curbs, ditches, manmade channels, and storm drains).



To report a violation regarding yard waste in the streets, call code compliance at 817-426-9872 or 817-426-9875 or fill out a form online at www.burlesontx.com.



Improper disposal of yard waste can pollute waterways and clog storm drains. When yard waste such as grass clippings, fallen leaves, bush trimmings, yard and garden debris and brush get blown into the streets during landscape maintenance, they are eventually washed into the storm drain system during rain storms or with runoff from lawn irrigation systems.

Unlike sanitary sewers, anything dumped into the storm drain system flows directly to the nearest creek or river without any treatment to remove contaminants. Organic materials such as grass clippings deplete the oxygen level in the water, which is harmful to aquatic life. Yard waste can clog the storm drain system and cause flooding of neighborhood streets.

You can help maintain the quality of your community's water by managing your yard waste.

- Clean up yard waste that gets to the streets, sidewalks and driveways. Use those leaf blowers to blow clippings back up into the yard they came from where they can help provide additional nutrients to your lawn.
- Don't bag it! Mulch or compost your yard waste.
- Take yard waste to the City's Compost Center, located at 620 Memorial Drive. The compost center is open on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. During operating hours, Burleson residents (proof of residency is required) may take brush, leaves, and grass clippings to the site in approved paper lawn waste sacks. Free mulch is also available for Burleson residents on those days, upon request.

