

Leaf burning ban sought

AP — Keeping leaves from being dumped in landfills or burned in the air could result in gardening gold, Gov. James Blanchard says.

Blanchard's environmental adviser, David Dempsey, said recently that the governor will support legislation to be introduced next year that would prohibit leaf burning starting in 1990. A ban on placing yard waste in landfills would begin in 1993.

Composting the leaves would be the only legal way to dispose of them.

Passage of Proposal C on the Nov. 8 ballot would make \$5 million to \$10 million available to counties and cities for composting programs.

Composting allows leaves and other organic material to decompose under natural conditions. A rich soil conditioner that can be used as garden mulch results.

CITIES ALREADY are finding a demand for composted leaves.

Gary Hubler, a street maintenance supervisor for Ann Arbor, said the city collects 24,000 cubic yards

of leaves a year and gives them to horticulturalists and the University of Michigan Botanical Gardens.

Livonia vacuum trucks pick up 46,000 cubic yards of leaves a year and take them to a landfill used only for leaves, said Charles Hopps, Livonia roads supervisor.

"Most people look at leaves like other garbage — out of sight, out of mind," said Gary Schocke, Bruce Township supervisor and chairman of the Macomb County Solid Waste Task Force Commission. The task force is developing a composting plan for the county.

'No more room at the dump'

The League of Women Voters of Birmingham/Bloomfield is hosting a panel discussion tonight called "No More Room at the Dump." The topic is the Oakland County solid waste management plan and the ramifications of a solid waste crisis facing the county.

Speakers include David Dempsey, environmental aide to Gov. James Blanchard; James Frey, vice president of Resource Recycling Systems, Inc.; and Lillian Dean, recycling education coordi-

nator for Huntington Woods.

The panel discussion begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Bloomfield Township Library.

It is estimated that Oakland County landfills will run out of capacity in about five years.

The county is considering a number of alternatives including:

- Waste reduction.
- Recycling.
- Composting.



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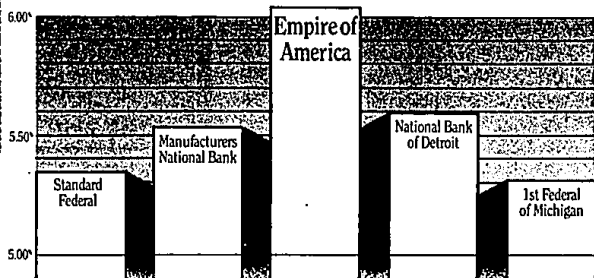
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