

Leaves...what to do with them...

Many people regard leaves as a necessary evil and the penalty for having nice trees around the yard. The back-breaking job of raking up the leaves does not appeal to most people, but with the fine collection of leaf removal equipment offered by Yard-Man, leaf removal does not have to be a back-breaking job. But the problem always remains of what to do with the leaves.

BURNING

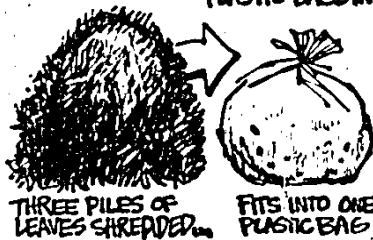
Burning leaves is the least desirable means of getting rid of them. In fact a constantly growing number of communities are banning the burning of leaves. Not only does burning pose a potential fire hazard, but releases unpleasant smoke and pollutants into the air. There are better methods of disposing of leaves.

BAGGING

Collect your leaves, put them in plastic trash or leaf bags, seal them with a twist tie and put them out for the garbage collectors. Shredding of leaves will greatly reduce the number of bags. However, if you're going to shred them, consider making a compost pile.



ONE PILE OF LEAVES FITS INTO THREE PLASTIC BAGS...



THREE PILES OF LEAVES SHREDDED... FITS INTO ONE PLASTIC BAG

MAKING A COMPOST PILE

Composting is a way to recycle waste and organic material and add beauty to our environment. Compost can be used to enrich the soil for vegetable and flower gardens, top dress the lawns and is an excellent mulch for flower beds, trees and shrubs.

A compost can be made of leaves, grass clippings and even garbage. It is desirable to utilize some means of containing the compost pile for both ease of maintenance and to keep undesirable animals away. A simple fence of wire, logs, cement blocks or old lumber can be used. Digging a hole in the ground will increase holding capacity.

Spread a layer of the material to be composted 2-6 inches thick. This may be leaves, grass clippings, pine needles or other organic material. Note, shredded leaves will decompose more rapidly. Cover the first layer of compost with 1/2 - 2 inch of topsoil. Sub-surface soil will work, but will take longer to work as it does not contain as many micro-organisms as top-soil. Repeating these steps are all that are technically necessary to create a compost pile, but the process can be hastened by taking other steps.

Decomposition can be hastened by adding approximately 1/2 pound of lime to each 6 inch layer of compost in

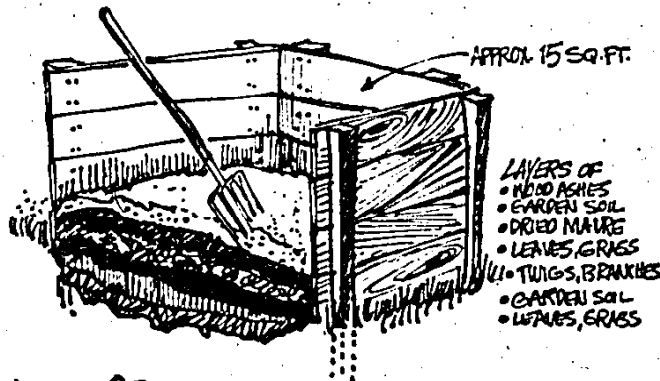
a 15 square foot area. However, do not use lime in the compost if you plan to use for acid tolerant plants such as blueberries. Use of hydrated lime is not advisable.

Bacteria use large amounts of nitrogen in the decomposition process.

Addition of fertilizer high in nitrogen content will help feed the bacteria and hasten decomposition. It is difficult to recommend an amount of fertilizer because of variations in nitrogen content. A good rule of thumb is 1/4 pound of fertilizer per 15 square feet of compost 6 inches deep.

Decomposition is more rapid if all ingredients are thoroughly mixed, aerated, heated and kept moist. It is possible to compost organic waste in about 2 weeks with the following program: Mix 2 parts (by volume) of plant refuse with one part of manure. If leaves are used, mix one part leaves, one part other plant residues and one part manure. All coarse materials should be chopped or shredded. Water thoroughly.

The pile should start to heat in about 30 hours. If not, add more manure or 1/2 pound urea nitrogen per bushel or heap. After heating starts, turn pile with a fork every 3-4 days and keep well watered.



APPROX. 15 SQ. FT.

- LAYERS OF
- HARD ASHES
- GARDEN SOIL
- DRIED MANURE
- LEAVES, GRASS
- TWIGS, BRANKIES
- GARDEN SOIL
- LEAVES, GRASS

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