



Autumn brings cooler temperatures and the arrival of falling leaves. Here are a few ways to manage leaves:

**Mowing** – a light covering of leaves can be mowed, leaving the shredded leaves on the lawn. This is most effective using a mulching mower.

**Mulching** – a lawn mower with a bagger provides a fast and easy way to shred and collect leaves. Apply a 3” - 4” layer of shredded leaves around the base of trees and shrubs. A 2” - 3” layer of shredded leaves is ideal for flower beds. For vegetable gardens, a thick layer of leaves between rows acts as a mulch and an all-weather walkway so you can work in your garden during wet periods.

**Composting** – other yard wastes such as grass clippings, pine needles, weeds, and small prunings can be composted. Compost can serve as a soil conditioner nourishing your yard and reducing the need for outdoor watering up to 60 percent.

**Soil Improvement** – leaves may be collected and worked directly into garden and flower bed soils. A 6” - 8” layer of leaves tilled into a heavy, clay soil will improve aeration and drainage. The same amount tilled into a light, sandy soil, will improve water and nutrient holding capacity.

***If you wish to bag your leaves, CWD will collect them on your second collection day along with your regular garbage (no more than 10 bags of leaves). Any amount of bagged leaves over 10 will be collected on your next week's second collection day. If you have questions, please contact CWD at (972) 392-9300.***