

STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

This informational flyer is designed to help residents, landscapers, and maintenance crews understand the importance and how to of proper landscaping and yard waste disposal within the City of Texarkana, Texas.

These methods are approved at the City, State, and Federal levels.



What is yard waste?

Yard waste can be made of grass clippings, fallen tree leaves, fallen sticks/limbs/branches, brush trimmings, and any other green waste debris from your yard. These materials may also be known as organic materials.

Why is it important to separate yard waste and solid waste?

During the year, at least 20% of the solid waste generated by Texans comes from grass clippings, tree leaves, and other yard waste. Bagging these materials as household waste uses valuable landfill space and costs residents more in increased taxes and service fees.

Why can't I put my yard waste in the street, drains or channels?

STORM DRAINS ARE FOR STORMWATER ONLY! It is a violation of the City Ordinance 125-34 – Stormwater Management Article II-Illicit Discharges to place, blow, or dump anything into a street, storm drain, drainage channel, or creek. When yard waste is blown into the streets as a result of landscape maintenance, it can slow the flow of water, potentially causing flooding. It also is eventually washed into the storm drain system significantly impacting the quality of your drinking water. Unlike sanitary sewers, debris in the storm drain system flows directly into the nearest lake, stream, creek or river without any treatment to remove contaminants. Organic materials deplete the oxygen level in the water, which is harmful to aquatic life. Improperly applied chemical fertilizers, as well as organic amendments, used on the lawn also wash down the storm drain and negatively impact aquatic life.

What can I do with my yard waste to dispose of it properly?

Grass clippings and leaves are truly a valuable natural resource. Grass clippings left on the lawn will provide up to 25% of your lawn's total fertilizer needs, and leaves contain 50 to 80% of the nutrients a plant extracts from the soil and air during the season. By leaving grass clippings and fallen tree leaves on the lawn, you are supplying it with natural fertilizers. This helps property owners save money on fertilizer application. To keep these nutrients where they will nourish the lawn:

- Leave mulched grass clippings and leaves on the lawn or compost them for use in your garden or flower beds
- Blow or sweep the grass clippings, mulching, and landscaping debris back into the lawn when finished. **Do not blow grass clippings to the middle or other side of the street**
- Regularly maintain grass to help keep the lawn healthy

If you decide you do not want to use your grass clippings for your lawn, Waste Management picks up yard waste as part of your weekly service. On your regular trash pickup day, Waste Management will collect properly gathered yard waste to take to the South Regional Compost Site. For proper gathering of yard waste for collection, see the FAQ's for Waste Management at www.ci.texarkana.tx.us.

For disposal of yard waste greater than the allowed weekly pickup, residents of Texarkana, Texas may drop off their yard waste at the South Regional Compost Site at 4000 S State Line, Texarkana, Texas 75501.