

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Waste Trac

Information on waste reduction, recycling, composting and proper disposal of wastes

Website: www.wastetrac.org

Phone: (319) 266-8722

Iowa State Extension Composting Guide

Download the PDF:

store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/Composting-Yard-Waste-PDF

Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District

Technical and financial assistance for backyard conservation projects.

Website: www.blackhawkswcd.org

Phone: (319) 296-3262

Report an Illicit Discharge:

Monday—Friday 8:00 am—5:00 pm
(319) 291-4312

All other time
(319) 291-4553

Or visit:
www.cityofwaterlooiowa.com/stormwater



CITY OF WATERLOO
ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT
(3 1 9) 2 9 1 - 4 3 1 2

DO'S AND DON'TS OF YARDWASTE

MANAGING YARD WASTE



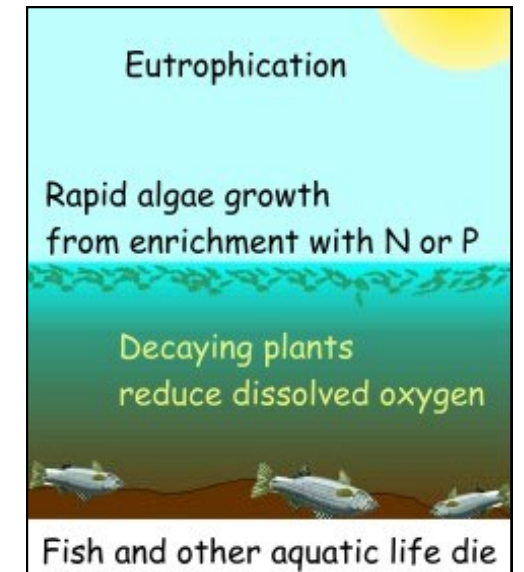
Managing yard waste is a regular part of property maintenance. Yard waste has many beneficial uses if used properly, but can also have negative impacts should it not be properly disposed of.

DON'T: BLOW GRASS CLIPPINGS INTO THE STREET

Grass clippings or yard waste disposed of in the street are unsightly and can result in blockages of storm intakes and outfalls. These blockages can cause storm sewers to back up onto public or private property, including roadways, posing a traffic hazard. If yard waste does reach the street as a result of property maintenance, it is important to recover it in a timely fashion



Further, excess yard waste discharge to our rivers and streams contributes nutrients which can lead to unsightly algae blooms. The decomposition of this excess yard waste and the resulting algal growth consumes oxygen in the water, making it unavailable to fish and other aquatic life. This can contribute to fish kills, strong odors and the production of organic toxins¹. The addition of excess nutrients and its effect on aquatic systems is known as eutrophication.



¹Source: Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension
www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/pages/publication.jsp?publicationId=1010

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

Composting is a great way of generating nutrients which can be applied to help keep your lawn and garden green. Composting also helps to reduce household wastes and is a great way of dealing with lawn clippings and leaves.



Composting in 5 steps:

1. Collect Materials
 - You'll want your pile to be about 2/3 "browns" and 1/3 "greens"
2. Select a container
 - You can build your own, or buy one of many available pre-fabricated styles
3. Pick a location
 - Place away from outdoor living areas or neighbors, on level, well drained soils.

4. Build a pile
 - Alternate "greens" and "browns", bury food scraps and other things that might attract pests.
5. Let it cook
 - In order for decomposition to occur, ensure the pile gets plenty of air and moisture, this means aerating and occasionally mixing.
6. Harvest the compost
 - Compost is finished when it is dark brown and has an earthy smell. For best results, screen compost with a garden sieve or milk crate.

Greens	Browns	Not Compostable
Grass clippings	Dead leaves	Grease or oil
Weeds	Hay or straw	Dead animals
Vegetable & fruit scraps	Corn stalks	Diseased plants
Coffee grounds & filters	Saw dust	Fatty foods, meat or bones
Tea bags	Dried, brown grass clippings	Human or pet waste
Egg shells	Newspaper	Treated wood
	Food-soiled cardboards	Pine needles or oak leaves



City of Waterloo Yard Waste Disposal Program

Curb-Side Yard Waste Disposal....

The curb-side yard waste cart program is designed to assist residents with debris removal and yard waste clean up. This cart is designed to hold residential yard waste only and has a maximum capacity of 220 pounds.

YARD WASTE INCLUDES: leaves, grass clippings, flowers, garden leaves, stalks, dead plants, etc. strips of bark, small (1/2" diameter) limbs and twigs and spent mulch.

The following IS NOT permitted in the yard waste portion of the curb-side program.

- Overloading the cart with: soil, dirt, sand, rocks, sod or other heavy material.
- Disposing of hot ashes, hazardous or flammable materials, paints, solvents, liquids, acids or chemicals.
- Metal, plastic, landscaping materials, yard ornamentation, construction/demolition materials, household garbage, garden vegetables etc.

A yard waste drop-off site for citizens of Waterloo is located at 3505 Easton Ave, open from April through November 7 A.M. to 8 P.M. Sanitation Department 625 Glenwood Street Waterloo, IA 50703 Phone: 319-291-4455

Curb-Side Cart Program Rules.

This service can only be successful with your help. The curb-side cart program has been designed for both Recycling and Yard Waste Disposal. Please observe the following.

1. Follow the color-coded collection schedule. A new schedule will be distributed yearly. Green days are basic yard waste only days. Yellow days are expanded yard waste only days. Red days are recyclables only days. If you misplace your schedule call Public Works to have a new one mailed to you.
2. Containers will be collected on the same day as your regular garbage day, but by a different vehicle. Carts should be placed curbside, 4 feet apart.
3. Place cart with arrows facing the street for collection by 6 A.M. and remove by 8 P.M.
4. Do NOT bag, wedge, jam or overload materials into the cart.
5. Keep your cart clean. Hose out periodically, turn over, and let dry before using again.
6. The cart is built to roll freely. To move the cart, close the lid, grasp the handle, place foot in the foothold, tilt the cart toward you and roll.
7. Store the cart in a safe place and keep the lid closed when not in use.
8. DO NOT move the cart with the lid open, place the cart in way of traffic, play in or around the cart or drag the cart.
9. NO Glass products taken in the blue cart For more information on how and where prohibited items may be legally/properly disposed of, please call Public Works.