

Leaves can smother your lawn if left in place all winter. Here are two options to better manage them:

## Shred the Leaves

Dead leaves that fall from your trees can be used to fertilize your yard or mulch your garden if you shred them. You don't have to purchase a costly leaf shredder, just allow leaves to pile up on the lawn, mow over them several passes with a lawn mower and leave them. Use excess shredded leaves to mulch flowerbeds.

## Start a Compost Pile

Composting leaves is a great way to recycle and also helps create a rich soil amendment you can use in your garden. Fall is the perfect time to start composting and once you have an established pile it becomes easy to maintain. Visit epa.gov to learn composting basics.



If you do rake and bag your leaves, remember to avoid plastic trash bags and use brown paper yard waste bags.