



## Fall Leaves:

**“Love ‘Em  
and  
Leave ‘Em”**

**As Mother  
Nature  
Intended**



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Tired of raking, bagging and hauling leaves to be disposed of? Start a new tradition this fall—mulch mow instead!

Mother Nature doesn't spend her fall days raking, bagging and hauling leaves off of her land -and neither should you! Take a cue from her, rest easy this fall and let the soil microbes do the work of decomposing your fall leaves right into your grass—come spring your lawn will be healthier. Let the nutrients from fallen leaves decompose and enrich your soil. Remove those leaves from your property and your land loses valuable nutrients from nature's nutrient cycling process. Once you start mulch mowing you just might find that your lawn doesn't need as much fertilizer over time.



## LEAVES: LOVE 'EM AND LEAVE 'EM FOR HEALTHY SOIL, LAWNS, GARDENS & PLANET



### **Problems associated with removing leaves from nature's nutrient cycle:**

- Your soil loses out on all those valuable nutrients.
- Blowing leaves off landscape beds damages top soil and beneficial organisms.
- Hauling leaves away costs money-whether it is through a tax -payer funded drop off site or individuals paying for curbside collection.
- It's a lot of work doing all that raking, bagging & hauling!

### **Here's the solution:**

Simply leave the leaves on your property and help Mother Nature's microbe helpers get a jump-start decomposing by shredding your

leaves. Whole leaves can smother plants once they get wet and mat down but shredded leaves decompose quickly and do not cause any damage.

### **Benefits of leaf mulching in place for lawn & garden**

- Increases soil's ability to hold water
- Lightens our heavy clay soil
- Regulates soil temperature in the summer & winter
- Returns nutrients to soil in a slow-release organic form that has zero cost
- Increases biological activity of earthworms, microbes & other beneficial soil organisms
- Decreases weed germination as decomposing leaves cover up bare spots
- Decreases your carbon footprint

## Q & A

### **How do I get started mulch mowing?**

- 1) Purchase a specially designed blade for mulching leaves-available locally at Carbondale Ace Hardware. Regular grass mulching blades will not work as well.
- 2) Adjust your mower deck to a higher setting to accommodate the leaves.
- 3) With your newly installed mulch mower blade, mow your leaves directly into your lawn. Leaves 6-8 inches deep can be mulch mowed but will require several mower passes.

### **How else can I use leaves around my property?**

- 1) Use them as mulch in flower & garden beds. Shredding leaves prior to application is the key to keeping them light and fluffy to prevent crown rot. Use a vacuum shredder or place leaves in a barrel and shred with a weed trimmer.
- 2) Shred them to use in your compost pile.