



Fall Leaves: Save Time & Money by Mulching-in-Place

How? It's as simple as shredding leaves into small pieces using a mulching mower, a shredder/chipper, or a vacuum shredder. *Shredded leaf volume reduces up to 10:1.*

- Shred leaves directly into lawn. Leaves 6"-8" deep can be mulched but may require several passes, as will wet leaves.
- On driveway or patios, rake or blow into piles, then shred and apply on landscape beds 2"-3" thick (like any mulch).
- Leaves in wooded areas? Leave them alone to decompose naturally. Trees have evolved to recycle their leaves, thereby fertilizing and maintaining the vigor of their root zones.
- For landscape beds including ground covers, vacuum or carefully blow off the leaves, then shred & re-apply as mulch.
- Excess leaves can be used in a compost pile, serving as a "brown" layer in the compost recipe. (Always use shredded leaves in the pile for speeded-up decomposition.) In the summer, add grass clippings, as well.

Benefits of leaf mulching-in-place for lawn & garden:

- Increases water holding capacity of soil, improves absorption of rainwater runoff.
- Lightens clay soils and gives organic fluff to sandy soils.
- Cools roots in summer and provides additional temperature protection in winter.
- Increase nutrients and oxygen in the soil.
- Increases biological activity of earthworms, microbes & other beneficial soil organisms.
- It's a free "fertilizer" for landscape plants, trees, vegetable garden and lawn.
- Eliminates or reduces yard waste from entering municipal "waste stream." Saves taxpayer money.

For more information and resources: visit the GPTF pages on Village of Irvington website - www.irvingtonny.gov/green

*"How To" card courtesy Irvington Green Policy Task Force
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