



## Trash and Recycling

### Yard Waste

Yard waste is collected on your regular trash day using a separate “Yard Waste” only vehicle.

For yard waste to be collected curbside or at our seasonal drop off, it must be in brown, biodegradable lawn bags or small bundles of branches. Bundles are branches under 2 inches in diameter and smaller than 3 feet in length.

Loose yard waste in cans cannot be collected.

There is no limit on the number of bags/bundles per week.

No plastic bags, trash, stones or non-organic waste can be mixed in with yard waste.

Please make sure you re-bag any yard waste bags that are deteriorating. Our crew will not be able to collect them even when the service begins.

### When is the curbside pick-up season?

The town offers weekly curbside collection in the spring and fall. These weeks coincide when yard work is the heaviest. During summer, the town offers every other week curbside collection services.

Weekly curbside collection of yard waste **beginning on Monday, May 4, 2020**. The collection of yard waste during the spring will continue until Friday, July 10, 2020.

Yard waste collection during the summer months will resume on a bi-weekly basis starting on July 20, 2020. Updates regarding the summer and fall collection schedules will be advertised later.

### What is yard waste?

Yard waste that is accepted our seasonal collections is defined as vegetation, grass, leaves, and weeds etc. Small bundles of branches, that are twined and less than 2 inches in diameter and 3 feet in length, are also accepted. It does not include dirt, stones or trash, which cannot be mixed in.

### What happens to the yard waste after collected?

It is turned into compost. That is why it cannot be bagged in plastic, mixed with trash or non-organic materials. It is transported to the state landfill (RIRRC) and deposited in the separate compost area at the facility. Next, it is run through a shredder and turned for about a year, which allows this material to naturally breakdown. Within short time, your old leaves and clippings, will decompose and become nutrient-rich humus which fuels plant growth and



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restores vitality to depleted soil. RIRRC then offers this grade A compost to residents for \$30 / cubic yard or \$8 for a 40-pound bag.

### **What is the best way to get rid of yard waste before or after the curbside collection season?**

If a resident needs to dispose of yard waste during the winter months, Smithfield Peat Co. located at 295 Washington Hwy. in Smithfield may accept yard waste for a fee.

### **Yard waste does not need to leave your property. See the benefits & ways to manage yard waste right on your land.**

Yard waste will naturally break down quickly right on your yard. Really there is no reason, if you have room, to move this material off your property. Of course, only make a pile on property that you own, but this is an easy way for you to help our environment and keep your yard looking good.

**Stop Bagging Grass Clippings.** During the summer, as the temperatures rise our lawns' growth slows down. Usually, you are not mowing as frequently as you did in the spring. A great option during this time is to raise the level on your mower and let the small 1" clippings fall right back on your lawn. These small pieces break down quickly and give your lawn much needed nutrients. Most homeowners fertilize their lawn in the spring, and now all those nutrients are in your grass. These can go right back on your yard- if you leave these when you mow. Gardeners share that three mowings are equal one fertilization application. If you remove the clippings, you are ultimately removing all those nutrients you just added to your lawn.