



Township Talk

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A Message From the Trustees

Since the introduction of the Township-wide Yard Waste Recycling Program in early May, more than 80 ton has been recycled. By all accounts, this is proving to be a most popular program.

Residents, including Lawrence Township Lawn Care & Landscaping businesses, are encouraged to bring their yard waste to the Township drop off center between the hours of 8:30 to 4:30 weekdays and 8:30 to 12:30 on Saturdays.

Yard Waste includes grass clippings, leaves, garden debris and brush/branches less than



Township Employee, Chuck McNutt loading pruning debris in dumpster for shredding and mulching.

4" in diameter and four feet long.

Tree limbs and branches greater than 4 inches in diameter and four foot long, as well as stumps and roots, are considered garbage/rubbish—not yard waste,

and are not acceptable.

While Sod and dirt may be dropped off at the designated location at the Township collection center, it should not be mixed with grass clippings, leaves, brush and other yard waste materials.

We are excited by the growth potential of this program and pleased to be able to offer this valuable service to the residents of Lawrence Township.

Your help and cooperation in making this a successful and sustainable program is greatly appreciated.

*Mark W. Haueter (Chairman)
Donald Ackerman (Trustee)
Matthew S. Ritterbeck (Trustee)*

You Can Do It!

RECYCLING LAWN WASTE @ HOME

This is the second in a four-part series of recycling self-help articles. Your comments, suggestions and feedback are welcome.

Studies conducted to determine what goes into municipal landfills such as Countywide, our local landfill, indicate that lawn and yard waste may constitute up to 50% of the total refuse sent to landfills during the summer months. This accounts for about 18% of the total waste added during the entire year. Many of these

yard and garden waste products need not leave the yard, or at least, should be sent to the Township Yard Waste recycling Drop Off Center for recycling rather than the local landfill.

Inexpensive, easy, and ecologically sound ways to use many of these waste products can be found in the home. Grass clippings and leaves may be recycled directly on the lawn or garden, used as a mulch, or used in composting. (For a complete discussion on composting, check out our *Back Yard*



Composting article online at: www.lawrencetownship.org/Recyclingnewsletter.pdf.) Other materials like dead branches, old vegetable stalks, and other organic plant waste can be shredded and also used as mulch, worked into the garden, or added to the compost pile.

Sources of yard waste ...

One of the biggest contributors to yard waste is grass clippings.

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ALL TRAIN VEHICLES (ATV) SAFETY WATCH

Complaints concerning the improper use of all terrain vehicles (ATV) in Lawrence Township are on the increase. The most common complaint relates to the use of ATVs on public roads. Please keep in mind that you may be liable to arrest and prosecution if you ride an ATV on a public road.



again, you may be liable to arrest and prosecution.

It should be noted that ATV tires very quickly wear through the vegetative cover and exposes the soil surface. Unless carefully constructed, ATV trails quickly degrade causing rutting and erosion of soil particles resulting in storm water management problems. Erosion and unwanted redirection of storm water due to unauthorized ATV trails are a growing concern.

Unauthorized use of ATVs on private property is another common complaint. If you do not have the permission of the landowner to ride your ATV on their property, you are trespassing and here

If you own an ATV, please teach your children to obey the law and be considerate of the environment and the property rights of others. Please follow the ATV Safety Institution's Golden Rules:

1. Always wear a helmet and other protective gear.
2. Never ride on public roads - another vehicle could hit you.
3. Never ride under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
4. Never carry passenger on a single-rider vehicle.
5. Ride an ATV that's right

- for your age.
6. Supervise riders younger than 16; ATVs are not toys.
7. Ride only on designated trails and at a safe speed.

ATV Riding and Safety Clinic

A free ATV riding and safety clinic will be held at Black Hawk Cycle on August, 2008 at . For more information call 330 874 2731 or e-mail ATV@lawrencetownship.org.

You Can Do It!

RECYCLING LAWN WASTE @ HOME



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grass clippings. For many years people believed that to have a healthy, lush green lawn it was necessary to catch grass clippings. This belief often was fostered by lawn mower manufacturers who had strongly urged consumers to purchase bagger attachments for their lawn mowers. In fact, it was often difficult to purchase a lawn mower without such an attachment.

More and more people are realizing that trucking grass clippings to the landfill is expensive, ecologically unsound, and unnecessary.

Some lawn mower manu-

facturers also are changing with the times and promoting the recycling of grass clippings and other yard waste. Mulching or recycling lawn mowers now are available that work very well in chopping up grass clippings. Conversion kits for older lawn mowers also are available.

Thatch has long been thought to build up in lawns when grass clippings were not removed. Actually, thatch is seldom a problem in a healthy lawn, whether or not the clippings are removed. Thatch can become a problem, however, if a lawn is over fertilized and over watered. Thatch is mostly non-

decomposed fibrous portions of grass stems and roots.

Grass clippings, with their high water and nitrogen content, decay rapidly and release nitrogen and other

nutrients back into the soil. The clippings do not contribute to thatch accumulation.



Lawns should be mowed properly, following the one third rule. Avoid removing more than 1/3 of the grass length at one mowing. Proper mowing helps to maintain the

overall health of the lawn, generally eliminates the need to remove grass clippings, and reduces the probability of developing a thatch problem as well.

Increasing the mowing height during the summer will also improve the health of the lawn. Within the height range for your type of grass, a lawn cut higher is healthier because it can produce food (photosynthesize) at a greater rate, it is better able to compete with weeds, it shades the ground, and it uses less water.

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You Can Do It!

RECYCLING LAWN WASTE @ HOME

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Home lawns typically are fertilized with 2 to 4 lbs. of nitrogen per 1000 square feet per year. If grass clippings are recycled on the lawn, you should never have to apply more than 2 lbs. per year to maintain a healthy and vigorous lawn. The grass clippings actually act like a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer, providing a constant supply of nitrogen and other nutrients.

Remove grass clippings if the grass is tall and the clippings form such a thick layer on the turf that light will not be able to penetrate to the growing grass plants. In cases like this, a bagging attachment on the mower may be used or the turf may be raked after mowing to remove the excess clippings.

Excess clippings make a good mulch for the vegetable garden that will deter weed seed germination, conserve moisture, keep vegetables clean, regulate soil temperature, and add organic matter and nutrients to the soil.

However, too thick a mulch of grass clippings could result in increased problems with slugs, flies, and other pests. To avoid these problems, work excess clippings into garden soil or add to a compost pile. The high water and nitrogen content make clippings an excellent addition to the compost pile, aiding in the decomposition of other materials which are more resistant to decay.

As a last resort, you can bring your grass clippings along with other yard waste to the Lawrence Township Yard Waste Drop off Center in the Industrial Park one half mile outside of Bolivar Village off Fort Laurens Road.

Do not use grass clippings for mulch, or add them to a compost pile if the lawn recently has had herbicides applied to it. Some broadleaf herbicides can leave residues in grass plants that may damage sensitive plants if the clippings are used as mulch or in compost. Always try to recycle these clippings directly on the lawn where other plants will not be damaged.

Leaves are the second major source of home yard waste. Unlike grass clippings, which are a problem throughout the summer and into the fall, leaves are generally only numerous during the fall.

Leaves are much more resistant to decomposition than grass clippings, mostly because they have a lower nitrogen content. Grass clippings are two to three times higher in nitrogen content than oak or maple leaves. The lower the nitrogen content, the slower the decomposition process will be since the microbes which break down the organic matter need nitrogen to live and multiply.

If only a few leaves are on the lawn, mowing the lawn with a rotary lawn mower may shred the leaves sufficiently and allow for natural decomposition without removing the leaves. Remove large amounts of leaves from the lawn since they will decay slowly, restrict light penetration to grass plants, and tie up nitrogen in the soil to fuel the microbes while they decay the leaves.

The decomposition of leaves can be hastened dramatically if the leaves are shredded. This can be accomplished



simply by running over the leaves with a rotary lawn mower or running the leaves through a garden shredder or hammer mill. Mixing the leaves with some other material that will supply additional nitrogen, like grass clippings, other green vegetable material, livestock manure or a nitrogen fertilizer will also greatly hasten decomposition.

Dead branches or materials from pruning are another source of yard waste. These materials offer a greater challenge in that they are woody and therefore quite resistant to decay. Branches almost always need to be shredded or chipped to allow for quicker decomposition and to reduce waste volume. Here again, you may bring your dead branches and materials from pruning to the Township's Yard Waste Recycling

GET IN THE LOOP



Help save both money and trees. Sign-up to receive our Newsletters via E-mail! It's easy. Just send an e-mail to:

Zoning@lawrencetownship.org and type *E-mail Me* in the subject line.

Also, visit the Lawrence Township website at www.lawrencetownship.org and check out our recycling resources and more!

«City»

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit # 9



YARD WASTE RECYCLING SPECIAL

Township Road Maintenance Report

Summer is a very busy time for Township Road Superintendent Charles Meiser and Road Crew members Todd Reynolds and Chuck McNutt. In addition to roadside mowing, trimming and general maintenance, resurfacing of nearly half our Township roads was scheduled for July.

To ensure that all this work was completed, two part time employees, Mike Meeker and Ray Burkhart were hired for the summer.

Lawrence Township road crew, with the help of Dover and Franklin Townships, completed chip and sealing more than 16 miles of Township roads During July.

So what is Chip and Seal?

Chip and Seal is one of the oldest and most successful road surfacing methods. Instead of paving a road with asphalt, which is amazingly expensive, Lawrence Township often chips and seals. It's much, much cheaper, and has many of the advantages of asphalt.

Here's the lowdown: The road to be sealed is often first paved so there's a nice cap (rounded form, being higher in the center) and a firm base.

A penetrating oil is applied. This is that super black, sticky stuff that you see sprayed on roads. It ruins everything it touches. However, this oil holds the road together nicely. While the oil is still hot (it's sprayed out at about 230F), a chip spreader follows immediately behind the applicator truck and dumps the chips on. After a several

day curing period, excess chips are swept up. Around here, the chips we use are gray limestone. They're hard little rocks that make a nice driving surface, but generally not good for rollerblading and racing bikes.

Lawrence Township Board of Trustee Meetings

Lawrence Township Board of Trustee Meetings are held twice a month on the second and last Thursday. Meetings start at 7:00 pm and are held at the Township office located at 10867 Industrial Parkway NW, Bolivar, Ohio 44612.