

**O**n August 7, 2009, the Village of Downers Grove announced that the subsidized Leaf Collection Program will be discontinued this fall. The move helps to address a revenue shortfall within the Village's 2009 Budget due to the slowing economy and subsequent reductions in several major revenue sources.

The optional program was first introduced to residents last fall as a result of a new three-year contract with ARC Disposal that took effect on April 1, 2008. Leaves were collected for a six-week period between October and December without the use of a sticker at an annual Village subsidy of \$140,000.

As in years prior to the Leaf Collection Program, leaves are considered yard waste and are subject to the guidelines outlined below.

## **YARD WASTE COLLECTION GUIDELINES**

Yard waste includes leaves, grass clippings, twigs, small branches and other garden refuse. Yard waste must be placed in one of the following:

- 33-gallon biodegradable paper bag
- 33-gallon unlined can
- ARC yard waste cart.

Bags or cans may not weigh more than **50 pounds**. Carts or cans used for yard waste must be clearly marked as such. Contact Village Hall for free **YARD WASTE ONLY** decals.

- Brush and tree branches may not exceed 4 feet in length and 5 inches in diameter and must be bundled together with jute twine or uncoated string. Bundles may not exceed 2 feet in diameter, 4 feet in length, and **50 pounds** in weight.
- A garbage / yard waste sticker must be attached to each bag, can or bundle.



## TIPS TO REDUCE YARD WASTE VOLUME

### 👍 **Mow over leaves before bagging them.**

This reduces the ratio of bags to leaves by seven to one, thereby saving money on sticker costs.

### 👍 **Consider composting.**

Composting is the biological decomposition of organic material into a humus-like substance called compost.

Leaves and other types of yard waste can be a source of materials used in a compost pile.



*Example of a backyard compost pile.*

A good source of information about composting is the University of Illinois Extension website:

<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state/hort15.html>