

How to Properly Prepare Yard Trimmings for Collection.

- **Yard trimmings in plastic bags will not be collected.** If you use a landscaping company, please share this information to ensure proper preparation.
- Remove stones, dirt, litter, sod and other debris.
- Place materials in the green organics carts or paper yard bags. Paper yard bags are available year-round at your local hardware store and limited quantities of County-provided bags are available beginning March 19 at the locations listed below. Please limit the number of County-provided bags you take to 10 per trip.
 - Lee Recreation Center, 5722 N. Lee Hwy, 703-228-0550
 - Thomas Jefferson Recreation Center, 3501 2nd St. S., 703-228-5920
 - Courthouse Plaza, Information and Referral Desk, 2100 Clarendon Blvd, 703-228-3000
 - Solid Waste Bureau, 4300 29th St. S., 703-228-6570
- Bag weight should not exceed 50 lbs. and cart weight should not exceed 200 lbs.
- Place small branches and limbs less than 4 feet in the green organics cart, paper yard bags or in bundles next to the green organics cart. Bundles must be less than 4 feet and should not exceed 50 lbs. For limbs longer than 4 feet, please schedule a free unbundled brush collection by calling 703-228-6570 or schedule online at solidwaste.arlingtonva.us.



Why Are Plastic Bags Not Allowed?

Yard trimmings collected in Arlington County are composted and used to make top soil for use in County projects. Plastic bags and other inorganic materials contaminate the end product.

Cómo preparar adecuadamente los desechos del jardín para el día de colección.

- **No se recogerán los desechos del jardín en bolsas de plástico.** Si utiliza una empresa de mantenimiento de jardín, por favor, comparta esta información con ellos para que estén al tanto de la preparación adecuada.
- Quitar piedras, tierra, basura, césped y otros desechos.
- Coloque los materiales en los carritos ecológicos verdes o en las bolsas de jardín de papel. Las bolsas de jardín de papel están disponibles todo el año en su ferretería local y cantidades limitadas de bolsas son proporcionadas por el condado y están disponibles a partir del 19 de marzo en las ubicaciones siguientes. Por favor, limite el número de bolsas proporcionadas por el condado a 10 por viaje.
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- El peso de la bolsa no debe exceder las 50 libras. Y el peso del carrito no debe exceder 200 libras.
- Coloque las ramas pequeñas y pedazos de ramas que midan menos de 4 pies en el carrito ecológico verde o en las bolsas de jardín de papel o en manojos/bultos amarrados a lado del carrito ecológico verde. Los manojos/bultos amarrados deben de tener menos de 4 pies y no deben exceder las 50 libras. Para las ramas y arbustos que midan más de 4 pies de largo, por favor programe una recolección gratis llamando al 703-228-6570 o hacer una programación en línea en solidwaste.arlingtonva.us.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SOLID WASTE BUREAU

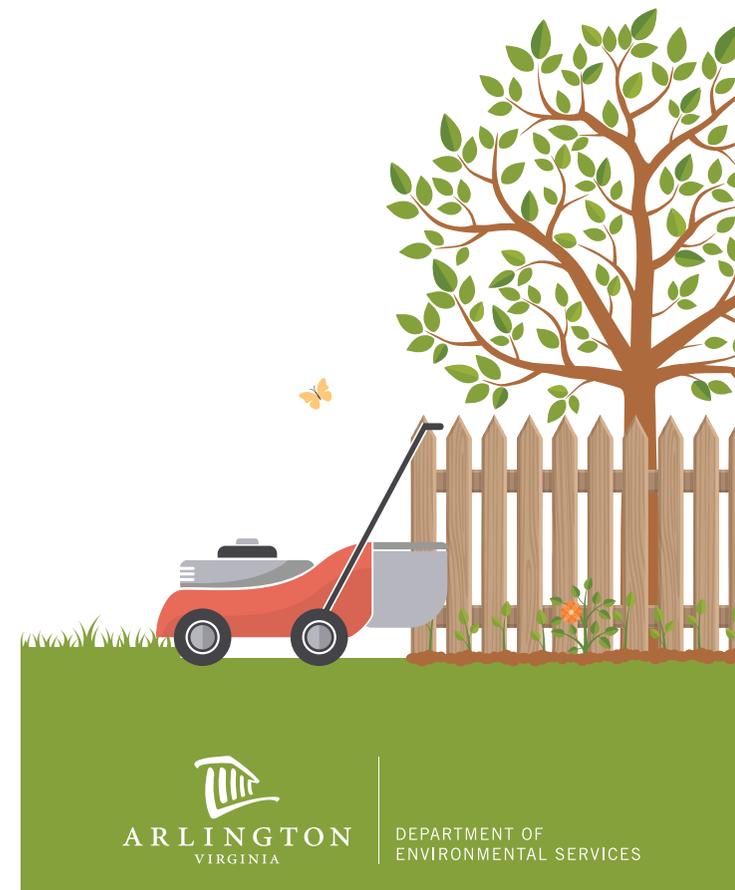
4300 29th St. S., Arlington, VA 22206

 Printed on 30% post consumer recycled paper

2018 SPRING YARD MANAGEMENT

**BAGS AVAILABLE: MARCH 19
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
COLLECTION: YEAR-ROUND ON
YOUR COLLECTION DAY**

***Yard trimmings in plastic bags will NOT be collected.**




ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Create a Sustainable Yard for Spring.

The key to a vibrant garden or green, lush lawn is healthy soil. Creating healthy soil requires a change in mindset from using chemicals to kill pests and weeds, to feeding and nourishing living organisms in the ground through organic soil management and practices. Plants and grasses that grow in healthy soil are more drought-tolerant, resistant to diseases and better able to fight off pests and weeds.

Organic Lawn Care: How to Begin

- **Test your soil first.** A soil test will tell you the pH level of your soil and whether it needs more nutrients. You can find soil testing kits at garden retailers, home improvement stores and locally at the Virginia Cooperative Extension located at 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington, VA.
- **Feed your soil.** Once you have identified what your soil needs, add nutrients by applying a ¼ - ½ inch of compost as a topdressing or purchase and apply an organic fertilizer, which comes from natural plant, animal and mineral sources.
- **Thicken your lawn.** Spread grass seed over your existing lawn to facilitate growth. Thick grass makes it harder for weeds to grow.
- **Water wisely.** Water your lawn early in the morning. It's still cool outside so evaporation is low and seepage into the soil is best before the sun bakes the ground hard.
- **Mow high.** Leaving your grass a little longer provides more shade for soil, helping it to retain moisture. When you mow, consider leaving the grass clippings on your lawn, also known as grasscycling.

To learn more about organic lawn care, visit mgmv.org (Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia) and pubs.ext.vt.edu (Virginia Cooperative Extension).

More About Grasscycling

Grass clippings provide nutrients to your yard and you can save time and money by leaving them on your lawn. They also decompose very quickly and do not cause thatch. Keep the following tips in mind, then mow and go.

- Ensure mower blades are sharp and remove bag.
- Set blade height to 2 - 2½ inches.
- Do not cut any more than one-third of the length of the grass blade at a time.

To learn more about grasscycling, visit our website: recycling.arlingtonva.us and search 'grasscycling.'

Chemical Alternatives

Pesticides, herbicides and insecticides may kill pests and weeds but all of them contain toxic chemicals that may harm children, pets and wildlife. Before you reach for a chemical solution, try these organic options:

- Pull weeds out by hand or using a long handled weeding tool. Weed after it rains when the ground is wet.
- Kill weeds with boiling hot water. But be careful when pouring, scalding water will also kill the plants you want to keep.
- Apply vinegar to weeds. Household vinegar (5% acetic acid) works as a mild herbicide on young plants. Weeds typically die within a few days. Vinegar with a higher percentage of acetic acid may also be used for a more rapid response.
- Try organic pesticides such as pyrethrum and garlic sprays to control unwanted pests in your garden.
- Apply mulch to garden beds. Organic mulch suppresses weeds and improves soil quality.

How to Get Mulch

Arlington residents can have mulch delivered for a fee or pick up leaf and wood mulch for free at 4300 29th St. S. and 4712 26th St. N.

For more information, visit recycling.arlingtonva.us and search 'mulch' or call 703-228-6570.

COMPOST BINS FOR SALE!

Presto Yard Compost bins are for sale for \$20. Visit the Solid Waste Bureau at 4300 29th Street S., Arlington, VA 22206 to purchase one today!

Composting

Composting leaves, plant trimmings and other organics in your backyard is easy and the end product helps reduce the need for fertilizer, improves soil quality and saves money. You only need 3 square feet of space to get started. Download comprehensive resources on backyard composting from the Virginia Cooperative Extension at ext.vt.edu and search 'backyard composting.'

Don't want to DIY? You can drop off food scraps at the Earth Products Recycling Yard and the Columbia Pike Farmers Market. The Solid Waste Bureau processes these scraps in an on-site, in-vessel composter, with the results made available to the Department of Parks & Recreation for landscaping projects in County public spaces.

- Earth Products Recycling Yard, 4300 29th St. S., Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Columbia Pike Farmers Market, 2820 Columbia Pike, Sunday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

If you are new to organic lawn care the transition will take some time and effort in order to get your yard to a healthy state but there are multiple benefits. You will: help minimize chemicals that end up in Arlington streams and waterways; create a healthy and safe environment for outdoor activities; and save money and effort as your plants and grass require less intervention to fight off pests and weeds.

