

## Other options for your leaves

### Compost your leaves

Add 1" (2.5 cm) layers of leaf mulch to your composter while alternating with other materials or use a separate composter for leaves only. For a leaf composter, alternate 6" (15 cm) of leaf mulch with a 1" (2.5 cm) layer of soil or finished compost and maintain by turning it regularly and keeping it moist.

### Leaf Mold

Rake regular or mulched leaves into a three foot (90 cm) pile in the corner of your yard. If leaves are dry, dampen with water. Turn the pile a few times in spring and summer to speed up the process which can take up to 12 months.

### Leave it at the curb

Put your leaves in paper yard waste bags and place them at the curb on your garbage days in November. There's no limit to the number of paper yard waste bags you can put at the curb.

You can also put your leaves in plastic garbage bags at the curb on your garbage day. These leaves count toward your weekly limit of 10 bags of garbage.

### Drop off your leaves

Drop off leaves Tuesday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Robin Hood Bay Residential Drop-off. Leaves in paper yard waste bags will be used in landscaping at Robin Hood Bay but leaves in plastic bags will be landfilled.



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**Leaf  
Mulching**

ST. JOHN'S

## What is Leaf Mulching?

Leaf mulching is the process of shredding leaves with your lawn mower or leaf shredder and using them as mulch on your lawn and garden.

## What is Mulching-in-place?

Mulching-in-place, simply put, is mowing leaves right where they fall. On lawns, leaves are mulched into the grass.

## What can I do with Leaf Mulch?

### Leave it on your lawn

Use your lawn mower to shred your leaves to about dime size and leave the pieces on your lawn. It is important to make sure leaf pieces are small enough to let light get through to your grass. This may require you to mow twice where there are a lot of leaves.

### Dig leaves into your garden

Dig leaves directly into your garden to add organic matter and nutrients to the soil.

### Use leaves as mulch

Put leaf mulch on gardens and flower beds and around trees and shrubs.

## Why Leaf Mulch?

### Save Time, Money, and your Back

No need to rake your leaves, buy bags, or lug the bags to the curb. By mulching-in-place you save time and money.

### Soil Enrichment

Leaf mulch gives nutrients back to the soil. Your lawn and gardens will require less fertilizer and other additives.

### Water Conservation

Leaf mulch helps retain moisture in soils. When soil is covered with leaf mulch, the mulch lowers the soil's exposure to sun and wind which reduces evaporation.

### Insulation

Mulch acts like an insulating barrier from the heat in the summer, from the cold in the winter and from the wind all year round. Mulch prevents compaction and erosion of soils from wind and rain.

### Weed Control

Leaf mulch can help prevent the growth of weeds. Add a thick layer, 2 to 3" (5 to 7.5 cm) to gardens to reduce the need for herbicides.

## Tips for Leaf Mulching

- Use a mulching blade and a closed chute flap on your lawn mower to effectively mulch the leaves on your lawn.
- You may be able to convert your mower to a mulching mower with a mulching blade or a retro fit kit which is available at most hardware stores or on-line.
- Keep your mower blade sharp.
- Set your mower blade to 2.5" (6.5 cm) high.
- Mow leaves when dry to prevent clumping.
- Mow leaves when there is no more than 1" (2.5 cm) of fallen leaves.
- Push lawnmower slowly to give mower time to chop up leaves.
- If your lawnmower has a bag, either remove the bag to spread mulch evenly over the lawn, or use the bagged mulch where necessary around trees, shrubs and gardens.
- When adding mulch to gardens, do not put mulch right up to the base of plants or trees and make the mulch no deeper than 2 to 3" (5 to 7.5 cm).
- If you use a lawn service, ask them to leaf mulch.

