

Yard and Tree Waste

Garden waste, weeds, brush and tree trimmings over 1-inch in diameter can be deposited in the regular trash throughout the year.

Grass and leaves are banned from the Lincoln Landfill from April 1 through November 30 each year. Grass and leaves can be mixed with regular household trash, December 1 through March 31. The following options are available for grass and leaf materials:

GRASS MULCHING — The best way to “Grass Cycle” is to leave grass clippings on the lawn. Not only does this save the hassle of bagging grass, but returns nutrients to the soil and reduces water evaporation from the lawn. A sharp mower blade is needed and clippings should be no more than an inch long in order to work their way back into the soil.

COMPOSTING — Backyard composting is another good alternative. The predominant organic waste in most backyard compost piles is leaves. If clippings are used for compost, it is advisable to mix them with other yard wastes.

There are several resources to learn how to compost:

- Self-guided and informal tours of the city’s Backyard Composting Demonstration site, located at University Place Park, 50th and Colby St., near the maintenance area.
- Composting workshops are offered at various times and places, including every third Saturday at the Backyard Composting Demonstration site, 50th and Colby Streets. The workshops are produced by the Lincoln Recycling Office in cooperation with the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County. For more information about these workshops, call the Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County at 441-7180.
- This composting information is also available online at www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/pworks/waste/recycle/compost.htm
- “Garden Compost,” NebGuide (G86-810-A), is available online at www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/horticulture/g810.htm or by calling 441-7180.

DISPOSAL AT 48TH ST. TRANSFER STATION — Residents may dispose of grass and leaves at the 48th Street Transfer Station. Grass and leaves must be free of garbage, litter and tree trimmings over 1-inch in diameter. Grass and leaves must be removed from plastic bags at the transfer station. A disposal fee is charged. Call 441-7738 for more information.

HIRING A LAWN CARE SERVICE — Include yard waste management in your lawn care package.

HIRING A PRIVATE HAULER — Lincoln refuse haulers offer a separate weekly pick up of yard waste to be taken to a city-operated compost site for a fee. Contact your hauler for more information.

Note that grass and leaves in plastic bags are NOT allowed at the city’s compost site (plastic will not decompose in the compost mixture). Use approved paper lawn bags available from retailers, a cart provided by the hauler, or a 32-gallon trash can with a lid. If you use a yard waste container, make sure it is clean (household waste contaminates the compost and causes problems at the compost facility). Haulers can be fined up to \$50 if contaminants are found in the grass and leaves, and this charge may be passed onto the consumer.

✓ Reuse

Here are a few environmental friendly gardening and landscape practices which reuse yard waste:

Mulches are applied to the soil surface around plants. Plastic, paper, woodchips, leaves, grass clippings and straw, are a few of the materials that can be used as mulch. A 3-4 inch layer of mulch greatly reduces the rate of evaporation, reduces the weed growth around landscape plants and protects them from mower damage by providing a buffer zone. More information about mulches can be found in “Mulches for the Home Landscape”, NebGuide (G86-810A), available online at www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/horticulture/g1257.htm or by calling 441-7180.

WOODCHIPS — The City of Lincoln has limited quantities of woodchip mulch on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact the Lincoln Recycling Office at 441-8215 for more information.

- Woodchip mulch is available at the N. 48th St. Transfer Station. There is a charge of \$5 per cubic yard which includes loading.
- Individuals may also self-load woodchips at Oak Lake Park, 1st and Cornhusker Highway.

Compost — The chief advantage of compost is its ability to improve soil structure. Adding compost to heavy clay soil improves drainage by improving soil structure. Compost also absorbs water and improves the water-holding capacity of sandy soils. In addition to improving soil structure, decomposing compost will slowly release plant nutrients.

LOCATIONS TO PICK UP OR PURCHASE COMPOST

- The City of Lincoln has limited quantities of finished, 1/2-inch screened compost, called LinGro compost, available to the public each spring at the N. 48th St. Transfer Station. This material is available at no cost, on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact the Lincoln Recycling Office at 441-8215 for more information.
- Individuals and businesses may order a minimum of 20 cubic yards of 1/2-inch screened LinGro compost by contacting the Lincoln Recycling Office at 441-7043. There are fees of \$6 per cubic yard for the 1/2 inch screened LinGro compost.
- The following area firms have LinGro compost available in bulk quantities:



All Care Grounds Management
300 S. Coddington Ave.
Lincoln, NE 68522
438-5115

Campbell's Nurseries and Garden Centers
7000 S. 56th St.
Lincoln, NE 68516
423-1133

General Excavating
6701 Cornhusker Hwy
Lincoln, NE 68507
467-1627

Nebraska Nursery and Color Gardens
7801 Pioneers Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68506
489-6543

Nemaha Nursery
430 W. Pioneers Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68522
434-5488

Naturescapes Inc.
466-7771

PreCast Products, Inc.
1010 S. Coddington Ave.
Lincoln, NE 68522
464-0638
Opens Spring 2002

Seeds of Life
730-8733



48th Street Transfer Station

The City of Lincoln operates two disposal sites.

48TH STREET TRANSFER STATION, located at 5101 N. 48th Street, approximately one mile north of 48th & Superior Streets, is for the general public. Vehicles of any size with construction and demolition material, which consists of concrete rubble, soil, bricks or similar waste materials should use this facility.

BLUFF ROAD SANITARY LANDFILL, located at Highway 77 and Bluff Road, is for refuse trucks or trucks with a cargo box dimension larger than 6' x 8', 48 sq ft, more than 5 feet high, and a gross vehicle weight of more than 9800 pounds.

- Accepts only waste generated within Lancaster County limits.
- Hazardous wastes are NOT accepted.
- Residents are required to separate waste items such as grass and leaves, brush, appliances, tires, and lead-acid batteries and place in designated areas as directed.
- All loads are subject to inspection.
- All loads must be covered or pay additional \$3 uncovered load fee.
- Businesses with “special wastes” need permit from Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Dept., available at 441-6238.

Hours (closed holidays):

- Monday-Saturday 6:45am-3pm • Sunday 6:45am-Noon
- During Daylight Savings Time, open Monday-Friday until 6pm for construction material only

Call **441-7738** for current hours, fees and other landfill information.

Disposal fees include:

- Cars: \$2.50
- Pickups, vans: \$10
- Trailers less than 6' x 8': \$10
- Pickups with small trailers (both full): \$16

Additional fees include:

- Appliances: \$5 each
- Car passenger and light truck tires: \$3 each
- Large truck tires: \$6.50 each
- Farm or heavy equipment tires: \$11.50 each

Other fees may apply.