

Yard and Tree Waste

Garden waste, weeds, brush and tree trimmings

over 1-inch in diameter can be deposited of in the regular trash throughout the year.

Grass and leaves are banned from the Lincoln Landfill from April 1 through Nov. 30 each year. Grass and leaves can be mixed with regular household trash, Dec. 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 UNL 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.

Applying Compost

When applying compost, thoroughly mix it with the top soil. Use compost at the recommended rates listed below:

- For a new lawn, spread one inch of compost and till into the top four to six inches of soil prior to seeding.
- For an established lawn, top dress with up to 1/4-inch of compost two to three times during the growing season. (Treat bare spots like new lawn.)
- For flower and vegetable gardens, apply one inch of compost and till into six inches of soil.

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 (any vehicle) and the Bluff Road Landfill (pickups and trailers only). There is a charge of \$5 per cubic yard. City personnel will load woodchips into open pickups or trailers. All other vehicles must be self-loaded at the N. 48th St. Transfer Station.
- Individuals may also self-load woodchips at Oak Lake Park, 1st and Cornhusker Highway.
- Delivery of woodchips within a 50-mile radius of the Bluff Road Landfill is available for a fee. Contact the Lincoln Recycling Office at 441-8215 for more information.

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 organic compost, called LinGro, available to the public each spring at the N. 48th Street Transfer Station. This material must be self-loaded and is available at no cost, on a first-come, first-served basis. Pickup owners can also go directly to the compost facility at 6001 Bluff Road on Wednesday and Friday afternoons until 4:15 p.m., and city personnel will load their pickup for a fee of \$6/cubic yard.
- Delivery of compost within a 50-mile radius of the Bluff Road Landfill is available for a fee. Contact the Lincoln Recycling Office at 441-8215 for more information.
- The following area firms have LinGro compost available for a fee:



All Care Grounds Management
300 S. Coddington Ave.
Lincoln, NE 68522
438-5111

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

FM Lawn Care, Inc.
4611 Pierce Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68504
464-5257

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

Pine Lake Nursery
7250 Pine Lake Rd.
Lincoln, NE 68516
421-3584

PreCast Products, Inc.
1010 S. Coddington Ave.
Lincoln, NE 68522
477-2255

Seeds of Life
12400 Holdrege
730-8733

Clopyralid and Compost

Clopyralid (pronounced clo-PEER-a-lid) is a herbicide designed to kill broadleaf weeds such as clover, thistle and dandelion. Clopyralid is sold for use on turf by several manufacturers under a variety of trade names, such as Confront, Lontrel, Momentum and "Weed & Feed" fertilizers. The source of clopyralid in compost are clippings treated with these products.

Gardeners may inadvertently damage sensitive plants through misapplication of compost with clopyralid.

Plant families sensitive to clopyralid include:

- Legumes: peas, beans,

lentils and clover

- Solanaceous: tomatoes, peppers, potatoes and eggplant
- Composite: sunflower, petunias, daisies and asters
- Other plants: carrots, carnations, lupines and lettuce

Exposure to clopyralid does not pose a health threat. According to the EPA, it is not harmful to people or animals at the low levels present in compost. In fact, people that have applied this herbicide to their lawns have a much higher concentrations of clopyralid than is in the compost. The primary environmental concern from this herbicide is its effect on sensitive plants.

Vegetables grown in soil treated with clopyralid-contaminated

compost are safe to eat.

Plants damaged by clopyralid will show:

- Stunted growth: the main growth tip stops growing and the lateral buds begin to grow
- Reduced fruit set
- Cupping of leaves
- Failure of secondary leaves to grow after the seed leaves emerge
- In legumes, compound leaves stay single.

Compost is still great for your lawn, garden, and landscape. Compost builds healthy, biologically active soil, increases porosity and water-holding capacity of the soil and decreases bulk density of the soil.

Residents can help reduce the amount of clopyralid in the City's compost by: 1) choosing to use alternative (non-clopyralid) products on lawns or 2) mulching grass clippings back onto lawns (see *Grass Mulching* above).

Products Registered in Nebraska Containing Clopyralid

- Andersons Golf Products Turf Fertilizer 18-5-9 with Millennium Ultra Herbicide
- Award Professional Millennium Weed & Feed
- Battleship Herbicide
- Confront Herbicide
- Earl May Midwest Select Weed & Feed 32-3-5
- Earl May Midwest Select Winter Weed & Feed 24-4-14
- Greenview Preen 'N Green Lawns
- Howard Johnson's Weed & Feed with Millennium Ultra
- Lawn Science 20-5-10 LS 621 Pro Series Millennium Ultra Weed & Feed
- Lebanon Proscap Homogeneous Fertilizer w/Confront Herbicide 19-2-9
- Lebanon Proscap Homogeneous Fertilizer w/Confront & Team 19-3-9
- Lesco Momentum Premium Selective Herbicide
- Lontrel Turf and Ornamental
- Momentum Premium Weed & Feed
- Riverdale Millennium Ultra Selective Herbicide
- Strike 3 Ultra
- Tee Time 18-5-9 with Millennium Ultra Herbicide
- The Andersons Prof Turf Products 16-4-8 w/Millennium Ultra Herb & PCSCU