

Don't Bag Those Leaves

Every autumn all those leaves that have fallen on your lawn need to be removed. Should you rake and bag them? No! Should you spread them on the flower beds? Yes! If the leaves are spread on the flower beds, by spring they will biodegrade almost completely and nourish the beds. If they are left on the lawn, they block the sunlight and air from reaching the grass. Worse yet, with rain and snow they turn into a soggy mat that smothers the grass. The lack of sunlight and air can also cause turf diseases.

So, what should you do? The answer is mulch them. Get a mulching blade for your lawnmower and go over the lawn several times. This chops the leaves into tiny bits the size of confetti. These tiny bits will filter down through the grass and decompose quickly to act as a fertilizer and a weed control agent.

When should I mulch? The best time to shred the leaves is when you can still see some blades of grass sticking up through the leaves. Up to six inches of leaves can be mulched at one time but it is better to mow when the leaves are not so thick, so you may have to do this several times as the leaves come down. A bag attachment can also be used to catch the mulched leaves which can then be used to spread on vegetable beds for fertilizer.

There are many benefits from mulching. It is definitely easier on your back than the arduous task of raking and it is easier on the wallet as you won't have spend so much on fertilizer. The decomposing leaf bits cover the soil between the grass plants stopping the germination of weed seeds resulting in a weed-free lawn without the use of chemicals that damage the environment.