



Turn over a new leaf.

Backyard management of yard debris saves municipal tax dollars for collection and processing.



You can compost household leaves and grass clippings.



Compost is a useful soil amendment that:

- ✓ Improves the health and fertility of soil
- ✓ Adds nutrients to support soil micro-organisms
- ✓ Improves clay soils
- ✓ Saves water by helping soil hold moisture

You can also mow leaves and grass to mulch them both.



Mulch leaves in place.

- ✓ Reduces raking and handling time
- ✓ Amends soil with organic matter & nutrients

Leave grass clippings on the lawn.

- ✓ Adds valuable nitrogen back into the soil
- ✓ Saves on fertilizer costs



Plus you can reduce handling of leaves & grass clippings.



Use natural areas, ground covers, and planting beds; and make some serve as “rain gardens.”

- ✓ Saves time
- ✓ Allows leaves to decompose naturally in place
- ✓ Provides habitat for birds, butterflies, & wildlife
- ✓ “Rain Gardens” reduce storm water runoff and sewage overflows (see www.mmsd.com/wqi)

For more information: www.besmart.org
or call the Wisconsin Be SMART Coalition at 1-866-917-6278