

# Three More R's: Rot – Renew – Revegetate

The best way to avoid the extra costs and the transportation hassles of disposing of yard wastes this spring and summer is to manage your yard wastes in your yard. With a few simple steps, you can reduce the amount of waste you generate in your yard significantly. Here are a few tips:



## BRUSH

### Backyard composting –

Cut brush into small pieces and add them to your compost bin. It may not break down as quickly as the other materials in your composting mix but it will act as a good aerator, creating spaces for air to get in and speed up the composting process.

## How Much Wood Can the Wood Lot Chip?

Three woodlots will reopen this spring and summer for residents only. All locations accept brush and tree parts only. No stumps or construction materials. All loads must be covered and tied down.

### ANCHORAGE WOODLOT –

operated by Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District

**Open** .....April 30 – Sept. 27, call for days and hours

**Location** ..... C Street and 100th Avenue

**Cost to drop off** .....\$10 per pickup load

Free wood and chips available

**For more information** .....[www.aswcd.org](http://www.aswcd.org) or 677-SOIL (7645)

### EAGLE RIVER WOODLOT – operated by Municipality of Anchorage

**Open** ..... May 15 – Sept. 5, Fridays and Saturdays, 8am to 5pm

**Location** ..... Anchorage Regional Landfill

**Cost to drop off** .....Free if not mixed with a trash load

**For more information:** [www.muni.org/fire1/woodlots.cfm](http://www.muni.org/fire1/woodlots.cfm) or 343-6250

### GIRDWOOD WOODLOT – operated by Municipality of Anchorage

**Open** ..... May 2 – Sept. 26, Saturdays, 9am to 6pm

These dates are tentative, call to confirm

**Location:** .....Ruane Road in Girdwood

**Cost to drop off** ..... Free

**For more information:** [www.muni.org/fire1/woodlots.cfm](http://www.muni.org/fire1/woodlots.cfm) or 343-6250

## GRASS AND LEAVES

### Mulching or Grasscycling -

By using a mulching mower, or grasscycling, you can reduce the need for fertilizers, pesticides, and watering as processed grass clippings return nutrients to the soil and hold moisture. Grasscycling also reduces the labor involved with cutting grass, reduces the need for trash bags/containers, and prevents resources from being consumed to transport that material. You can either buy a mulching blade for your current mower or buy a mulching lawnmower at most hardware or home improvement stores. Be sure to mow often so the grass doesn't get too high. When the leaves fall, you can treat them much like you do your grass with a mulching mower, as long as you keep up with them.



**Backyard composting** - If the lawn gets away from you or leaves fall too fast, and you end up raking, consider backyard composting as an option. There are all sorts of commercial compost bins you can buy. You also can build your own using easy-to-find materials like stakes and chicken wire, or wood pallets. If your neighbors are okay with it, you can just make a big pile! Buy a backyard composting bin at a discounted price and learn all about composting at Dirt Day on May 16. See page 3 for details. Visit [www.goodearthgardenschool.com](http://www.goodearthgardenschool.com) for information about composting in our climate.

**Go natural** - One simple way to avoid grass waste is to eliminate grass. Planting flower beds with mulched areas, letting your yard go native with trees and shrubs, and planting wild plants as ground cover are all ways to reduce yard maintenance and waste generation. Grass is one of the most high-maintenance and expensive ways to manage your yard. Check your neighborhood covenants first.

## OTHER COMPOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

### YARD WASTE & HORSE MANURE

Anchorage Regional Composting Facility will be opening its doors in a new location this spring but further details were not available at this printing.

Country Garden Farms, 344-2088, will pick up horse manure and yard waste for composting in the Valley from customers ordering sod and hay.

Susitna Organics, 907-841-9426, will pick up larger quantities of horse manure for composting in the Valley. Costs roughly equate to \$35-\$40/ton, picked up and hauled.

**"There's a bear in my bin!"** Composting is an efficient and cost-effective way to manage organic wastes from your household. However, here in Anchorage, we all need to be aware of the challenges that wildlife creates. That means limiting what you compost from your kitchen if you live in an area where bears are common. Just like keeping your trash properly stored, be sure your compost bins are not attracting bears to your back yard. You can safely compost grass, leaves, brush, sawdust, straw, shredded paper, and even fur and hair. Avoid food scraps, especially meat and dairy products, in bear areas and be sure to use a covered bin with a secure lid if you have any type of vegetable or fruit scraps in your compost bin.