

Plymouth Environmental Academy

Compost and Yard Waste Resource Sheet

The yard waste from the 7 county metro area is not allowed to be sent to a landfill and must be diverted to compost. There are several effective ways to manage yard waste in Plymouth:

- Backyard composting
- City of Plymouth yard waste site
- Curbside service

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

Yard waste can be a valuable source of nutrients for your yard and garden. The “City of Plymouth Guide to Backyard Composting” is a comprehensive resource that discusses important details for successful backyard composting:

- The City ordinance requirements for backyard composting – siting and construction
- What to include in backyard composting – green and brown biomass that easily breaks down
- What NOT to include in backyard composting – meat, dairy and oil
- Hints for setting up and maintaining your compost pile

View the guide here <https://www.plymouthmn.gov/departments/public-works/recycling-disposal/guide-to-backyard-composting>.

PLYMOUTH YARD WASTE SITE

The Plymouth Yard Waste Site is located next to the City maintenance facility at 14900 23rd Ave. N. and is a no cost disposal option for yard and garden waste available to all residents of Plymouth, Medicine Lake, Wayzata and Long Lake. The Yard is typically open from the first Wednesday in April through the last Sunday in November.

Items accepted:

- Spring and fall lawn rakings and thatch
- Leaves and soft garden waste
- Tree waste, brush and logs

Items not accepted:

- Grass clippings, sod or soil
- Lumber, stumps and Christmas trees
- Retaining wall blocks, rocks and dirt

See the Plymouth Yard Waste web page for more details

<https://www.plymouthmn.gov/departments/public-works/recycling-disposal/yard-waste-site>.

CURBSIDE SERVICE FOR YARD WASTE

Licensed haulers in Plymouth are required to offer yard waste service, generally as a separate contract and an extra fee. Curbside yard waste service is generally picked up weekly from April through November. There are two collection options:

- Bins - hauler provides a bin for the resident
- Bags – resident must use compostable bags made from kraft paper or in bags labeled ASTM D6400. Bags marked "biodegradable" or "degradable" do not meet standards of state law. Most home improvement and hardware stores carry compostable bags, or for more information read Rethink Recycling <http://www.rethinkrecycling.com/compostablebags/>

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Minnesota Composting Council Resources - <http://www.mncompostingcouncil.org/backyard-composting.html>

Ginny Black's video on how to set up, care for, and use the product from a backyard compost bin - <https://vimeo.com/415330874/a6ff930683>

United States Environmental Protection Agency Composting (US EPA) At Home - <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home>

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Backyard Composting In Your Backyard - <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/composting-your-backyard>.

Rethink Recycling Backyard Composting - <https://www.rethinkrecycling.com/residents/backyard-composting/>

Recycle Association of Minnesota (RAM) partners with the City of Plymouth each spring to sell compost bins and rain barrels - <https://www.plymouthmn.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/10689/18?curm=6&cury=2020&locale=en>