

# RaswC

rathbun area solid waste commission

www.raswc.org

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## Yard Waste Management

Since 1991 yard waste has been banned from Iowa landfills for disposal due to space restrictions and the organic nature of the waste. This ban has left Iowa communities and residents to create their own disposal options.

### I burn my yard waste, what's wrong with that?

While burning of yard waste may seem an easy disposal option, it does pose environmental and health risks:

- Increased hospitalizations for respiratory illnesses
- Airborne particles can aggravate symptoms of those with respiratory problems such as allergies, asthma, or emphysema
- 85% of the particles from leaf smoke are inhaled deep in the lungs which can cause adverse physical or chemical effects
- Smoke affects more than just the yard of neighborhood where the burning occurs
- 5 lbs of burning leaves releases one pound of air pollution
- Remaining ash contains phosphorus and nitrogen that can overfertilize waterways causing algae and vegetation blooms



**SAFE, SMART,  
SOLUTIONS FOR IOWA**

# Yard Waste Management Options



## What can I do with my yard waste?

There are many alternatives to burning yard waste. For more information on any of these topics, contact RASWC or visit our website at [www.raswc.org](http://www.raswc.org).

### Composting

Compost grass clippings, leaves, garden debris and small sticks. A properly managed compost pile emits no odors. The compost can be used to add vital organic matter to garden and flower beds. Composting is also a great way to divert organic materials from your household trash!



### Chipping

For larger branches and limbs borrow or rent a chipper and use the material as mulch or edging.

### Mulching

Shred leaves and grass clippings with a mulching mower then leave on your lawn or collect for use as mulch around shrubs and garden plants.



### Local Yard Waste Programs

Contact your city or county government to find out if there is a yard waste disposal site that services your area.



### What are the advantages?

- Reduce the danger of out of control fires
- Reduce air pollution and associated health concerns resulting from burning of yard waste
- Save money in mulch and fertilizer costs



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