



THE TOWNSHIP TREEBUNE

Ferguson Township Tree Commission

Issue No. 7

Fall Leaves Can Be a Nutrient Resource for Your Yard

Every autumn here in Central Pennsylvania we celebrate the fleeting tapestry of colorful leaves along the ridges and in our backyards, only to begrudge having to rake them when they fall to the ground in November. But do we need to rake all of those leaves?

According to [Penn State Extension](#), while "ecologically speaking you do not need to rake leaves, a heavy layer can smother your lawn grass and prevent new growth in spring. Compacted leaves can promote snow mold diseases that damage turf grass."

Extension suggests that the easiest way to treat leaves on your lawn is to "pass over them with a mower a few times to shred them into small pieces. This method will return nitrogen to the soil as the chipped leaves decompose. In the garden, you can leave them where they fall, so they help insulate plant roots. Composting leaves is a great way to recycle nutrients." Alternately you can rake them into a pile and use the lawn mower to shred them to add to flower beds.

If mulching still isn't for you though, Ferguson Township offers curbside brush and leaf collection from April through December. See this [link](#) for pick-up dates and a YouTube video for how to prepare your collection to help ensure the safety of our crews.