



As Autumn Leaves

Fall...

The City of Sapulpa would like to remind citizens

**TO RETURN NUTRIENTS
TO THE SOIL**

Did you know...

Leaves, grass clippings, and soil have a tendency to clog storm sewers. Never rake or blow them into or near storm drains, ditches, creeks or the river. Decaying leaves and grass use up the water's oxygen, harming aquatic inhabitants. Blowing leaves into the street, storm drain, ditch, or creek is against the City of Sapulpa Stormwater Management Program and punishable by a fine.

Mulch leaves by running over them with your lawn mower at next cutting. Leaves and grass clippings are the best fertilizer for your lawn. Or... **rake it and leave it!** Rake leaves into a compost pile for a nutrient-rich fertilizer to use on your garden next spring.



COMPOSTING 101

Composting yard waste creates organic matter to build soil for gardens and flower beds. Mulching grass and leaves returns their nutrients to the soil, so the grass feeds on itself, not on fertilizers that are added to the lawn. Composting can range from almost effortless—just piling organic matter in a corner of your yard—to sophisticated—mixing various ingredients to get the right nutrient- rich results. Adding compost to soils aids in erosion control, promotes soil fertility and stimulates healthy root development in plants. You can also add barnyard manure, bone meal or other additives available from your home and garden store. Make sure to cover food scraps with other composting materials. Don't add animal products such as meat, bones, fats and dairy products; anything that has been heavily treated with herbicides or pesticides; cardboard; diseased plants, red cedar or black walnut trees.

A pile or bin should be at least 3 feet in all directions; larger piles hold moisture better and decompose faster. Compost should be kept as moist as a wrung-out sponge. Too little moisture can keep the pile from properly heating up and decomposing. Too much moisture can cause a rotten odor. (Fix by adding materials such as leaves or shredded newspaper.)