

# LEAF REMOVAL & CYCLING FAQ

Autumn comes at different times each year but eventually the leaves will change and finally fall. Leaf removal or cycling (aka mulching) leaves from your yard is a standard part of seasonal lawn care, but is it really necessary? The answer is a resounding yes!

Depending on the size of your yard, the number and type of deciduous trees you (or your neighbor) have, raking leaves can range from an annoyance to a grueling task. Why bother? Many people think leaf removal is purely for appearances, but there are actually far more practical reasons to remove the leaf litter from your lawn.

## **Why should I remove leaves from my lawn?**

It's important to remember that your lawn is a living, breathing organism which needs air, water, sunlight, and nutrients to survive. When you allow a layer of leaves to cover the grass, you are depriving it of those necessities, and if left long enough, the leaf accumulation can actually kill your grass. In addition to smothering your grass, the leaves trap moisture and create conditions for fungal growth, not to mention providing an ideal environment for insects. In fact, keeping your yard free of leaves and debris is one of the best pest control measures you can take for your home.

## **How do you remove leaves from my property?**

We use a combination of raking (usually from garden beds) backpack blowers, and a leaf mulching vacuum to remove the leaves. We then haul them away and properly dispose of them.

## **Is there another option to leaf removal?**

Yes, leaf Cycling (aka mulching). Instead of removing your leaves from your property, we mulch them with our lawn mowers which are fitted with mulching kits, along with other equipment. There will be an obvious leaf residue on the surface of the lawn that usually takes a few days to sift down through the turf. The amount of leaves mulched in relation to turf areas available and the amount of rain after our service will affect the breakdown times.

## **What are the benefits of leaf Cycling over removal?**

Glad you asked! Over 20 years of research by Michigan State University has shown two major benefits. First, was the need for much less fertilizer to achieve the spring "green up". Second, was NO WEEDS, according to their study. The decomposing pieces of leaves cover up the bare spots between turf plants (grass) that are an excellent opening for weed seeds to germinate. Experience has shown that nearly a 100% decrease in dandelions and crabgrass can be obtained after adopting the practice of leaf Cycling for three years.

## **Is leaf Cycling "green"?**

Yes. Leaf Cycling leaves can help you reduce fertilizer, drastically improve weed control, and reduces landfill waste. Landscape waste, including leaves can account for up to 20% of all curb side waste. Combine leaf cycling with aeration for an extra boost of natural goodness. If you want a recipe for a luscious lawn, yet want to be "green", put your rake away, don't bag it, and order leaf cycling today!

## **What plan should I choose?**

First, are you a leaf remover or leaf cycler (mulcher)? If you want your leaves removed, we like to call the plans; (1) Visit plan is the "I don't want to see you until the last leaf drops!" - (2) Visits: "I like my lawn, but I have other hopes and dreams..." - (3) visits is the "My lawn is important to me, keep up with it". If you lean towards "greener" options, especially when it makes perfect sense - Hey, you're a Leaf Cycler! Please note, whether your plan calls out 3 or 4 leaf cycling visits, the leaves from the any non-mowable areas (i.e. garden beds, curbs, etc) will only be removed twice.

## **How do you schedule your leaf services?**

Sometimes it feels like we're talking backwards but that's because our One Time Visit is actually done later in the season, generally early to mid December. Please inform us if you want your leaves removed or cycled prior to Thanksgiving. Weather rules around here and the amount and type of trees you have do affect schedule. Generally though, we start at the end of October or early November for those who sign up for (3) Leaf Removals or the Cycling Plan. In mid November, we make our 1st visit for our (2) visit removal customers and our 2<sup>nd</sup> visit for our (3) Visit Customers/Cyclers. Everyone sees us at the end of November to early December for either your last or first (only) visit.

## **How come there are leaves left on our property after your service?**

Despite our best efforts, additional leaves will blow in from surrounding areas and/or fall from trees after our visit. It is also unreasonable for us to set as our goal to get every leaf; this would be cost prohibitive for both of us. Weather, including rain, extreme cold, wind, along with site conditions all affect the quality of our work and schedule.

## **How do you invoice for leaf removal or Cycling?**

No matter which plan you choose, we bill upon completion of our leaf season, usually early to mid December and payment is expected and appreciated upon receipt so we can close our books before the holiday break.