

# MANAGING YARD TRIMMINGS

Davis is one of only a handful of communities in California that offer on-street collection of yard material piles. Since on-street pick-up does not occur every week in Davis, here are some ways that residents can manage their yard materials.

## 1. “LEAF” IT ON SITE

Instead of taking the time and energy to gather up your yard trimmings you can “leaf” them where they lie.

- **MULCH MOW** Mulching lawnmowers chop grass clippings so finely that they fall in-between the blades of grass in your lawn and quickly decompose, recycling nutrients into your yard. You can even mulch mow leaves that fall onto your lawn.
- **LEAF MULCH** Fallen leaves make an excellent and natural mulch for trees. When possible, leave your leaves where they fall and allow them to decompose, recycling nutrients back to the trees, creating a natural block for weeds, enriching the soil and preserving soil structure and moisture. Fallen leaves can be mulch mowed onto lawns as well.
- **YARD TRIMMINGS AS MULCH** Leaves, trimmings and lawn clippings make excellent mulch for bushes and small trees. Layer yard trimmings 4-6 inches thick under bushes and around the base of your trees.



## 2. BACKYARD COMPOSTING

Start a backyard compost pile for your yard trimmings and create your own nutrient-rich compost! The City has many composting resources available on [DavisRecycling.org](http://DavisRecycling.org), including booklets, web tutorials, and an online class! Davis residents in single-family homes can take the online composting class and receive a backyard composting bin for only \$10.



## 3. USE THE CART

All customers in Davis have access to an organics recycling cart that’s collected weekly along with trash and recycling. You’d be surprised how much can fit into one organics cart! Yard materials do not always nest well, so here are some tips on how to make the most out of the space in your organics cart.

- **CHOP IT** Chop materials up into pieces 18” or shorter before placing them in your organics cart.
- **SQUISH IT** When your cart seems full, tamp it down with a shovel, broom or rake to free up more space for materials.
- **DRY IT** Yard materials can lose a lot of their mass as they dry, leaving more space in your organics cart. As materials dry, tamp them down again and stuff in more.
- **MULTIPLY IT** Customers can get additional carts (fees apply). Residential organics carts are emptied once a week, offering a simple low-cost way to compost your yard trimmings. To request additional organics carts, residents can contact the City Finance Department (757-5651) and businesses can contact Recology Davis (756-4646).



## 4. SHARE THE SPACE

If you have a one-time excess amount of yard trimmings, you can ask your neighbor if you can place some of your extra trimmings in their organics cart.

## 5. HAVE IT HAULED

Ask a business to remove the yard trimmings materials for you.

- **RECOLOGY DAVIS** Contact Recology Davis (756-4646) for details and pricing on a large drop box for yard debris—they drop off the box for you, then haul it away after you’ve filled it with yard trimmings. You can also contact Recology for a quote on an off-schedule pile pick-up. The quote will be based on the volume, size, and type of yard material.
- **LANDSCAPERS** Contact a landscaping company for a quote to haul away excess yard materials.
- **TREE REMOVAL** Contact a tree removal company to chip and/or haul away larger trimmings.



## 6. FEED THE ZOO

Donate your yard trimmings to the Sacramento Zoo to feed the animals. See details on the Sacramento zoo website, [SacZoo.org/Support/Other-Ways-To-Give/Browse-Donation](http://SacZoo.org/Support/Other-Ways-To-Give/Browse-Donation).

## 7. RETHINK YOUR LANDSCAPE

Consider upgrading your landscape to include low maintenance plants that don’t require a lot of pruning, cutting and trimming—saving you time and reducing the amount of yard trimmings you have to manage.

