

Yard Waste: What it is and What to do with it

There are more than 2,500 plant species in the state of Michigan, according to the [DNR](#). While many of these plants reside in our forests and shorelines, we are fortunate to have many trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses with which to beautify our yards. But that beauty comes at a price—maintenance and upkeep. And while many of you are familiar with yard waste, you may have many “who,” “what,” “when,” “where,” “why” and “how” questions.

What is yard waste?

Yard waste includes items like leaves, grass clippings, vegetable or other garden debris, shrubbery or brush or tree trimmings, less than 4' in length and 2" in diameter.

Can I throw my yard waste in the trash?

The quick answer is no. It is against the law to put yard waste in a landfill in Michigan. Please visit the [Michigan Department of Environmental Quality \(MDEQ\) website](#) for more information.

Does the City of Mt. Pleasant offer curbside yard waste collection?

No. To dispose of yard waste, take it to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at 4208 E. River Rd. in Mt. Pleasant. If you have questions, please call (989) 773-9631.

How do I prepare my yard waste for taking it to the MRF?

Materials such as grass clippings, leaves and weeds should be packed into bags, which you will empty on-site. The MRF charges \$1 per 33-gallon bag. For brush, the MRF charges \$12 per cubic yard of material. For reference, the bed of a small pickup truck will hold approximately 1 cubic yard of material.

If you have additional questions concerning yard waste, please contact the Public Works office at (989) 779-5401.