



Love Em and Leave Em! Don't Rake Those Leaves Shred them into Your Lawn

Save Time Raking. Help Your Lawn by Shredding Leaves

It's great to have big shade trees in your yard. But, come fall, you can start to resent them. Those big trees drop leaves, and that means extra work, hassle, and lost time. However, there's good news. A recent study done at Michigan State University shows that you can forget about raking, blowing, and bagging leaves. Instead, just shred them with your lawn mower. It'll save you work, improve your soil, and add nutrients. Here's how to do it.

Chop those Leaves with your Mower

Mow over the leaves on your lawn with a mulching lawn mower. You want to reduce your leaf clutter to dime-size pieces. You'll know you're done when about half an inch of grass can be seen through the mulched leaf layer. Once the leaf bits settle in, microbes and worms get to work recycling them. Any kind of rotary-action mower will do the job, and any kind of leaves can be chopped up. With several passes of your mower, you can mulch up to 18 inches of leaf clutter.

See Great Results in the Spring

When spring arrives, you'll notice something. The leaf litter you shredded up in the fall will have disappeared. Your rake will look dusty and neglected. And your grass will look greener than ever.

Mulching: a Better Use of Resources

When you rake or blow your leaves, it costs you. Your local taxes pay for trucks to sweep up your leaves or pick up your leaves. It costs Irvington taxpayers over \$100,000 to dispose of leaves every year. Shredding leaves recycles a natural resource, giving you richer soil for free.

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