



City of Davis Public Works Department

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Environmental Column

October 12, 2007

By Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator for the City of Davis

Autumn is here—'tis the season for leaf piles! Please be sure to give your yard waste piles a little T.L.C.:

TIMING—Place your yard waste on the street as close to your scheduled pick-up date as possible. If your gardeners come the day after your yard waste is picked up, your grass clipping and other yard waste will sit in the street all week long. Ask your gardeners to come the day before your yard waste is picked-up instead. Check www.davisrecycling.org for the yard waste pick-up schedule.

LIMIT THE SIZE—Be aware that yard waste piles can create serious hazards for cyclists; **BIKE LANES SHOULD NEVER BE BLOCKED!!!** Your yard waste piles should be no larger than 5 feet in any dimension. Place your yard waste 18 inches from your curb or gutter.

COMPOSTING—What's better than putting yard waste on the street? Composting! Composting and mulch mowing return the nutrients back into the soil, cut down on the need for pesticides and/or fertilizers and save water. To receive a free compost bin via the city's compost correspondence class, contact Davis Public Works at 530-757-5686. Visit www.davisrecycling.org to learn more about composting.

The City Recycling Program will be offering free composting classes at the compost demonstration area in the Community Gardens on 5th Street. Backyard Composting will be taught November 6 at 2:00 pm and Worm Composting will be taught November 7 at 2:00pm. Registration is on a first-come first-serve basis; call the Public Works Department at 757-5686 to sign up for a class.

Per city code, yard material will only be picked up if it is located directly in front of a house. **PLEASE DO NOT** place your yard waste pile across the street or around the corner—it will not be picked up! Also, please do not block fire hydrants, storm drain inlets and driveways.

Streets are usually swept the day after yard waste has been picked up. In order to take maximum advantage of street sweeping services and clean fallen leaves in the gutters, please try to park your car off the street on street sweeping day. Leaf litter piled up in the gutters on streets can impede drainage and lead to standing water. Help us keep the stormwater flowing freely into the storm drains by moving your car on street sweeping day!

WATER CONSERVATION REMINDER

Cooler weather is here, and it's time to adjust your irrigation timers. Lawns and gardens do not require as much water as they do in warm weather. You pay for your irrigation water—rainwater is free. Why pay to water your lawn when it's raining? Please remember to adjust your irrigation sprinklers to turn on less often in the fall and winter and check the time of day you are watering. The best time to water your garden is early morning or evening, so the sun won't evaporate the water before it can soak into the ground.

FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT

Don't miss this month's free household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off events today and tomorrow, October 12th and 13th from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Yolo County Central Landfill! Bring in your paints, pesticides, fluorescent light bulbs, household cleaners, expired medicines and more for FREE and safe disposal. Mark your calendar for the HHW drop-off dates next month, November 9th and 10th from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Check out the reuse opportunities at the landfill as well! During each HHW drop-off event and the following Saturday reusable items are available for FREE! Stop by the landfill during a HHW drop-off event or on October 20th from 9:00-11:00 am to take your pick of free paints, fertilizers, household cleaners and more!

For more information, visit www.davisrecycling.org or email me at PWweb@cityofdavis.org.