

Residential Yard Waste Pickup

Yard waste that has been properly prepared for collection is picked up weekly on the same day as garbage collection for residents serviced through Monroe's contract with Waste Pro.



For more details on Yard Waste collection within Monroe and links to our series of collection videos, please visit our Yard Waste website at www.monroenc.org or call 704-282-4565



Please note that residential loose leaf pickup by the Property Management Department is available seasonally. For more details visit the Loose Leaf website at www.monroenc.org or call 704-282-4651



Yard waste that is too large or doesn't qualify for collection, can be hauled to Union County's Austin Chaney Landfill. For details including hours and costs, please visit Union County's Solid Waste & Recycling website at www.unioncountync.gov or call 704-296-4213.



To report stormwater pollution please call the Stormwater Hotline at **704-282-4515**



For more information on stormwater and pollution prevention visit our Stormwater website at www.monroenc.org



Yard Waste Guide



Report stormwater concerns to the Stormwater Hotline at 704-282-4515



Why is Yard Waste a Problem?

Stormwater runoff picks up any pollutants in its path as it flows into our storm drainage system. Yard waste in the storm drainage system causes many problems for our City. Branches, leaves, or other discarded yard debris can clog storm drains, culverts and pipes, cause localized flooding of streets, and damage stormwater structures and stream habitats downstream.



Yard waste transported by stormwater runoff introduces excess nutrients into our local aquatic ecosystems. Too many nutrients can result in uncontrolled growth of algae or aquatic weeds, such as duckweed (shown below). Negative impacts to wildlife include blocking sunlight, decreased dissolved oxygen levels, and smothering or destruction of habitats. Pet waste that is left on the ground contaminates stormwater with additional nutrients as well as a variety of bacteria and pathogens that are harmful to human health and wildlife.



What's the Issue?

- Grass clippings
- Weeds
- Leaves
- Tree limbs
- Shrubbery trimmings
- Excess fertilizer & pesticides
- Pet waste



What You Can Do!

- **Properly prepare** yard waste for collection. See the "Yard Waste Pickup" section for details.
- Place bagged leaves and leaf piles **above the curb**, not in the street, or blocking a storm drain (shown above).
- Never blow or rake yard waste into drainage structures including ditches (shown above).
- Do not use water bodies as **dumping grounds**.
- **Grasscycle**, or don't bag your clippings, leave clippings on the lawn as you mow. When done properly, they quickly decompose and the nutrients are recycled back into your lawn!
- **Mulch leaves** back into your lawn or spread them around your plants in fall. This provides nutrients to your plants and reduces water demand by retaining moisture and shading the roots.
- **Start a compost pile** in your yard.

Lawn Care Chemical Use

- **Have your soil tested** prior to buying fertilizer to focus your efforts on what is lacking in your soil.
- If you must use fertilizer or pesticides, always make sure you or your lawn care professionals are using the **correct amount and follow all instructions** for proper application, storage and disposal.
- **Sweep** excess lawn care chemicals from paved areas back into the lawn, don't wash them away.
- **Choose slow release fertilizers** to reduce the chances of contaminating stormwater.



Additional Ways to Help

- **Reduce your lawn area** and plant trees and native plants that **don't require as much maintenance**.
- **Do not overwater your lawn**, as this creates additional runoff.
- **Direct downspouts** away from paved surfaces to vegetated areas.
- **Install a rain barrel** to collect and reuse water.
- **Create a rain garden** to allow water to spread out and have time to soak into the ground instead of becoming stormwater runoff.
- **Always pick up pet waste** and dispose of bagged pet waste in the trash.
- **Volunteer with us!** You can mark storm drains with "no dumping" to educate others.

