



## ENGLEWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION & GREEN TEAM

# Leave the Leaves

Better for your Lawn; Better for the City; Better for our Taxes



## Mulch Them & Leave Them

After your leaves fall from the trees, simply mow them in place using your lawn mower or use your leaf shredder or leaf blower/shredder to shred them. Then “leave” them on your lawn, till them into your garden bed, or add them to your compost pile.

- ◆ Easier than raking, bagging or blowing into the street;
- ◆ Returns nutrients to your lawn and garden beds—reduces need for commercial fertilizers;
- ◆ Improves soil quality; helps soil retain moisture; absorbs rainwater run off; and
- ◆ Increases biological activity of worms and other organisms that are good for soil.

## Let's Use City Resources Wisely

### Piling Leaves in the Street Costs Money & Staff Hours

#### DPW Resources

Picking up leaves requires 6-8 employees and 3 trucks for weeks and weeks. Englewood spends over \$20,000 in overtime each season. These resources, allocated elsewhere, can do so much more to keep Englewood clean & beautiful.

#### Composting Fees

Englewood pays to haul away our leaves and compost them elsewhere. Let's save money and compost right here in our yards!

## Leaves in the Street -- the WORST Option

- ◆ Leaves can clog storm drains and cause flooding;
- ◆ Leaf piles are slippery when wet and cause accidents;
- ◆ Dry leaf piles are flammable; each year Englewood experiences at least one fire when a hot car ignites a leaf pile;
- ◆ Piles of leaves release harmful quantities of nutrients that can get into rivers and streams;
- ◆ Piles of leaves reduce the width of roads making it more dangerous to drive; and
- ◆ Children playing in leaves are hard to see by drivers.

If you must put your leaves in the street, **REMEMBER** – they can only be in the street 2 days before scheduled pick up.

