

## **LEAF COMPOSTING**

Fall leaves are a great resource in your garden.

### **How to compost leaves:**

- Use any mower to shred leaves into smaller pieces
- Mix the 5 parts leaves with 1 part nitrogen. Manure works well.
- Layer the material in a pile or compost bin
- Turn the pile every 3 weeks, or, if you have the space, let it breakdown on its own over the season

### **Benefits of leaves in the garden**

- The leaves of one large shade tree can be worth as much as \$50 of plant food and humus. Pound for pound, the leaves of most trees contain twice as many minerals as manure.
- Leaves hold 300% their weight in water making them a great way to keep soil moist in the heat of summer.
- Leaves break down slowly and release their nutrients over time.
- Leaves are an inexpensive and very beneficial mulch.
- They are free!
- It reduces waste and resources required to collect leaves.

### **Leaf compost tips**

- Mow your leaves with your grass and collect the mixture to use in compost or mulch. Or leave the shredded leaves on the lawn to breakdown on their own.
- Shred the leaves first because whole leaves will mat together. Eleven bags of leaves will shred down to one bag of mulch.
- Create a space in your garden to collect leaves every fall then work them into your compost pile or garden as you need them.