

Yard Waste and Backyard Composting

What should I do with yard and tree wastes?

By State Law, it is illegal to throw away yard and tree waste (grass clippings, garden and brush debris, leaves, sod, trees and stumps, wood chips, etc.) with your household garbage.

1. Yard waste must be separated from your household garbage. This means it must be bagged in a compostable paper bag or reusable container and kept apart from your trash bin.
2. Call your waste hauler for special yard waste set out rules and fees. If yard waste is not kept separate from your household garbage your waste hauler may have his/her trash load rejected at a disposal facility.

Fairmont Chamber of Commerce (507) 235-5547 organizes yard waste collections in Fairmont in the spring and fall and also periodically during the summer months. Call for details.

Many of the towns in Martin County operate collection sites for branches and tree limbs. Call the city offices to find out details on the various sites:

Dunnell	(507) 695-2942
Fairmont	(507) 238-9461
Granada	(507) 447-2200
Sherburn	(507) 764-4491
Trimont	(507) 639-2060
Truman	(507) 776-7951
Welcome	(507) 728-8898

Yard waste is a natural product that can be composted and reused back in the yard and garden rather than taking up valuable space in a landfill.

Recycle/compost options:

1. Leave grass clippings on the lawn. Clippings return nutrients to your lawn, acting as one fertilizer application per summer growing season. Grass blades contain about 85% water. When clippings are picked up, you lose moisture for the growing grass.

2. Backyard compost your small brush, grass clippings, leaves, sod, etc. With very little maintenance, you can produce a beneficial material to be reused in your yard and garden. For information on how to build and maintain a compost bin or pile, click here for the manual produced by the University of Minnesota Extension Services [Composting & Mulching Guide](#).

***HOT
TIP!***

Fertilize in the fall! Most established lawns only need fertilizing in the fall when the primary root growth occurs with the cool temperature.