


Home / How-To Center / Garden Center / **Fall Leaf Removal Solutions**



Plant Search Zone Locator Vegetable Library Herb Library Garden Dictionary Archive

Fall Leaf Removal Solutions

- Marisa Christiano

Finally, it's fall! And while many of us can't wait to sip on pumpkin spice lattes and carve pumpkins, there are a few who are focused on just one thing: fall leaf cleanup! Yes, that dreaded outdoor chore rears its ugly head once again. But rather than complain about this fall custom, you can make leaf collecting easier with these useful tips.

When to Begin

Before you reach for your rake, make sure it's the right time for leaf cleanup. If you start too early, you'll have to collect leaves several times throughout the season. If you start too late, your grass may not grow in the spring. You can determine the best time to complete this fall chore by doing the following:

- If it has recently rained, postpone your leaf pickup. Since wet leaves are heavier than dry ones, they will make demanding yard work more difficult. Let the leaves dry for a few days before you begin.
- Remove leaves when 25%–30% of them have fallen from nearby trees.
- For a more thorough leaf removal, complete the task twice (once in early October and once in early November).
- Tackle a leafy lawn on a slightly blustery day. By raking in the direction of the wind, you can pick up stuck and straggling leaves with every sweep.

Simple Strategies

Yes, you can keep your yard looking great during autumn! But how? Whether you're partial to more traditional techniques or rely on outdoor power equipment, there are many leaf-removal methods to choose from. Which one is right for you? Consider the size and layout of your lawn when selecting a leaf pick-up process.

Rake 'Em Up

Raking can work wonders for smaller yards. Outfitted with tiny tines, each rake is sturdy enough to move a large pile of leaves without disturbing the soil structure beneath. With each sweep, the tines will impale the leaves, ensuring that they won't float away and leave your lawn askew. For best results, use a 6" rake to remove leaves stuck under shrubs and a 26" rake for exposed spaces.

While raking can be a real workout, you can make it easier on your shoulders and arms by using a 9' x 9' Green Cinch Tarp ! All you have to do is lay it flat on your lawn. Then, rake the leaves directly onto it. Once you've created an impressive pile, pull the drawstring and the tarp will turn into a bag. Next, simply transport your leaf load to your designated "dumping area." This can be anything from a Leaf & Lawn Chute lining a paper leaf bag to a compost bin.

Blow 'Em All Away

A leaf blower can free larger lawns of fallen foliage fast! Using strong air currents, a leaf blower will quickly clear off sidewalks and driveways, leading scattered leaves straight to your discard pile. If you have a substantial-sized yard, you can always upgrade to a backpack leaf blower. It not only provides plenty of power, but it can also be worn on your back thanks to a built-in shoulder strap. With control and comfort all rolled into one, this type of leaf blower will help you amass a huge pile of leaves in no time.


Turn 'Em to Mulch

Instead of kicking leaves to the curb, turn them into garden gold. A great source of nutrients, fallen leaves can be repurposed into fantastic mulch with the right equipment. Try replacing your regular mower blade with a mulching blade. As you cut your lawn one last time, you'll also shred the dead leaves beneath. This simple act will reward you with a layer of nutrient-rich fertilizer that'll help your grass green in the spring.

Or, you could use an electric blower/mulcher/vacuum to get the job done. This particular power tool sucks up, grates, and bags leaves all in one easy step! Then, apply the pulverized leaves to your flower beds, vegetable garden, and/or tree rings for better soil.

Information for reference only. Items and availability may vary.


FEATURED PRODUCTS



6" Metal Shrub Rake

\$5.99

Add to Cart




True Temper® 26" Poly Leaf Rake

\$9.89

You Save: \$5.08 After Sale Price

Add to Cart




9' x 9' Green Cinch Tarp

\$6.99

You Save: \$2.50 After Sale Price

Add to Cart




Leaf & Lawn Chute

\$6.99

You Save: \$1.49 After Sale Price

Add to Cart



30 Gallon Paper Lawn and Leaf Bags - 5 Count


\$1.50

You Save: \$0.38 After Sale Price


Add to Cart

SIGN UP FOR EMAILS WITH HELPFUL TIPS ON GARDENING, LAWN CARE & LANDSCAPING

SIGN UP



FOLLOW US & VIEW OUR GARDEN CENTER BOARD



SHARE YOUR FAVORITE GARDEN PROJECTS USING #MENARDS MENARDSHOMEIMPROVEMENT