

5 Ways to Use Fallen Leaves

Wondering what you should do with all those leaves in your yard? Whatever you do, don't throw them away. They're plentiful, they're free, and they have many uses.

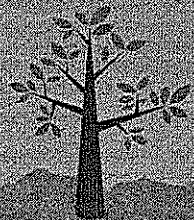
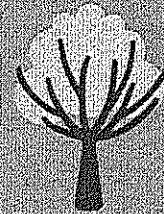


COMPOST

Mix shredded or whole leaves into your compost pile, or save them to add in later, when your compost pile is in need of carbon.

LEAF MOLD

This soil-like substance is the result of decomposed leaves. Gather leaves into a pile—shredded or not—and in a few months, you'll have nutrient-rich leaf mold to use in your flower beds.

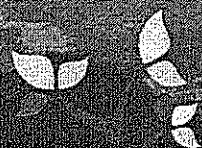


MULCH

Shredded leaves can be used in flower beds, vegetable gardens, and under trees and shrubs as mulch.

SPREAD

Thinner layers of leaves will help fertilize your lawn, while thicker layers will kill the grass and prepare an area as a future flower bed. Shred your leaves with your mower or string trimmer.



INSULATION

Protect your plants from the winter weather with several inches of leaves. Use excess leaves to cover potted plants and beds to help them make it through the winter.