

Kelowna NEWS

Yard cleanup time is here

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- Yard waste pick up every two weeks starting March 1 through the end of November.
- Accepted items include grass clippings, leaves, needles, prunings, fruit droppings and branches.
- Yard waste must fit in the cart with the lid closed.
- **NO** garbage, plastic bags, flower pots, rocks, soil, sod or kitchen scraps please.

Photo: Contributed

Gardeners itching to get back out in the dirt can start gathering their yard waste for collection. Starting Tuesday, Central Okanagan residents on municipal curbside garbage collection can put yard waste out every two weeks until the end of November.

Place your yard waste in the cart with the green lid and wheel it out to the curb alternate weeks to recycling pick up.

“Last year alone, we collected almost 14,600 tonnes of yard waste at the curb and turned it into high-quality compost instead of it being buried at the landfill,” said waste reduction facilitator Rae Stewart.

“Collecting yard waste separately means it can all be composted, saving valuable landfill space and reducing unnecessary traffic congestion at the landfill. Your collected yard waste is turned into compost known as GlenGrow, great for amending your garden soil, so it’s most important to keep the yard waste free of any plastic or garbage.”

You’re reminded to put it out for collection by 7 a.m. on the morning of your regular garbage day. No garbage, plastic bags, rocks, sod, flower pots, landscape cloth, or kitchen scraps in the yard waste cart, please.

Accepted items include: leaves, needles, wood chips, bark, garden plants, fruit droppings, grass clippings, and branches and prunings up to five centimetres in diameter and less than one metre in length.

You can also cut your garbage in half with a backyard composter.

The regional district's annual composter sale runs through the month of March. They will be ready for pickup in early May.

Three models are available, starting at \$35 and going up to \$95.

One third to half of household waste is easily compostable.

"By adding nutrient rich compost to your garden, it's a super booster for your soil – greener grass, healthier flowers, more robust fruits and veggies," said Stewart.

New this year, rain barrels will also be available for \$75 each, in partnership with the Okanagan Basin Water Board and its Okanagan WaterWise program.

To place your order, visit <http://www.regionaldistrict.com/your-services/waste-reduction-office/composting/purchase-a-composter-online.aspx>.