



This publication provides information on non-burning disposal alternatives for natural vegetation in Lane County.

Alternatives to Burning Yard and Garden Debris

Why should residents consider using alternatives to burning?

Burning natural vegetation emits harmful smoke particles and chemicals that can damage the lungs. As rural areas become more populated, more people are impacted by smoke from burning. Alternatives to burning yard debris are more available and accepted.



Yard and garden debris may be recycled, repurposed, or composted in all areas of Lane County year-round with no permit or paperwork needed. However, due to the hazardous smoke and potential for igniting structure fires and wildfires, open burning is prohibited in most cities in Lane County. In areas where open burning is allowed, Lane County limits open burning to certain months of the year. For fire guidelines within Lane County contact Lane Regional Air Protection Agency at 541-736-1056 or through the LRAPA website.



<https://www.lrapa.org/177/Outdoor-Burning-Program>.

What is yard and garden debris?

Yard and garden debris consist of garden trimmings, fallen trees and tree debris (including trunks, twigs, limbs, and branches), grass clippings, leaves, needles, and other similar debris that originate from the property. Not all yard debris can be burned, but all can be recycled.

How can yard and garden material be managed?

For owners of partially or fully developed land, there are several alternatives to open burning available.

Grasscycling

For lawns and fields, the option to leave the lawn clippings in place (as opposed to collecting the clippings) has several benefits. First, the clippings act as a natural fertilizer. By leaving the clippings the

nutrients contained in the clippings (the nutrients required to grow grass) are retained in the area of the lawn and not removed. This may be accomplished simply by removing the bag/catcher, or other lawn clipping collection container, and letting the clippings fall where they are cut. Alternatively, you can also use a mulching mower designed to produce finer, less noticeable clippings that are meant to be left on the lawn or field.

Chipping and mulching

Individuals can use a chipper or mulcher to dispose of unwanted woody plants, bushes, and small trees. Wood chips and mulch may be spread around areas under trees, covering walk-ways, or around garden beds to prevent weeds, reduce mud, and help the ground retain moisture.



Composting

Yard debris, garden waste, and kitchen waste may be composted. Composting is a scalable option that can be done on the level of a single-family home or a multi-acre property. Composting transforms what would otherwise be waste materials into a rich soil amendment that can be used for any number of applications from home lawns and gardens to multi-acre farms and orchards.



Repurposing and Reusing

Fallen trees and large pieces of scrap wood may be useful. With some creativity, these waste materials may be used to create borders for walkways, driveways, or other areas of properties. Trees may be used to create tiered or raised garden beds, fences, benches, or other useful objects from fallen or recently cut trees. Reaching out to the community directly or through social media and internet-based classifieds may help connect property owners with people looking for wood waste for other projects.

Where Can I Compost or Recycle Yard Debris in Lane County?

Below are some of the resources available! List is not all inclusive.



Action Drop Box (Lane Forest Products)
541-345-9085
<https://laneforest.com/secure-storage/>



Apex
541-607-2042
<https://heyapex.com/residential/>



Coburg Sanitary Service Inc. (Beginning May 2021)
541-683-5929
<https://www.coburgsanitary.com/>



Cottage Grove Annual Tree Branch Pickup
541-942-3349
<https://tinyurl.com/56fpraz5>



City of Florence
541-997-3437
Monthly yard debris drop off: Check website for drop off schedule
<https://www.ci.florence.or.us/publicworks/2021-yard-debris-disposal-days>



City of Junction City
541-998-3125
<https://tinyurl.com/hbjvd34h>



Lane County Waste Management
(Transfer Stations in Cottage Grove, Glenwood, and Florence)
541-682-4119
<https://www.lanecounty.org/waste>



City of Oakridge
541-782-2258
<https://www.ci.oakridge.or.us/community/page/yard-waste-disposal>



Republic Services
(Delivers large containers in Junction City)
541- 928-255
<https://www.republicservices.com/>



Rexius Recycling
541-342-1835
<https://rexius.com/pages/retail-sales-yard-and-yard-debris-recycling-center>



Royal Refuse
541-688-5622
<https://royalrefuse.com/trash-service/>



Sanipac, Inc.
541-736-3600
<https://www.sanipac.com/home/>