



The Water Chronicles

Use Your Water Right, 137 Bluebird Lane Clearwater, MN 55320
www.useyourwaterright.com info@useyourwaterright.com 320-310-4241

A Mower and a Blower can save Millions

By Chris Vasecka

End of fall is here and finalizing our yard chores is on top of our list as we prepare for winter. What to do with all of these darn leaves. Many of us remember as little children raking up the leaves into big piles and playing in them. After the fun was done, we would watch our dad's throw the match and poof it was all gone. Since the Clean Air Act has strengthened since the 80's this practice has become discouraged by most state and local agencies. Since then people have resorted to bagging the debris and sending it off to a landfill or to a certified compost area. Unfortunately through subsidies to support these programs taxpayers are being billed millions of dollars to support these programs. Some states have gone to taking the leaves to farm lands and tilling them into the soil. This idea is great, but like so many other recycling programs, bicycles, paint buckets, branches and other none leaf items would end up in the fields making it even more of chore than a benefit. So what else do we do with the leaves??

Recycle them yourself. Most of us have property that contains two distinct areas, Shaded turf areas and Non-Shaded turf areas. The area with the most shade is where we have an obvious leaf problem, where as the non-shaded area is where we grow the thickest lawn. Leaves are nothing more than Carbon and Nitrogen, both which can be beneficial to the turf.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Mower and a Blower can save millions

1

Though it may seem impossible moving the leaves which are piled up in the yard knee deep, is as easy as a rake or a blower. If you can spread the leaves across the other areas of the yard, you can use your mower to mulch them up. You may have to go over them several times, but eventually you will be left with just a small amount of debris.



The benefits of mulching the leaves into the turf canopy have some immediate benefits. Like mulching your roses or perennials, the response and green up in the spring is much faster than if there was no mulch. The turf is also protected from excessive desiccation, if there is not much snow cover in the winter time. Long term effects, are less need for water during the spring months and fertilization can be backed off as the nitrogen from the leaves will be slowly released as the leaves degrade in the turf canopy. According to research, there is no added thatch as the leaves decompose quickly into the soil.

So the next time you think about bagging those leaves and sending them off to the landfill, maybe you can recycle them on to your own lawn and save the **Taxpayers Millions.**

To view past articles, go to www.useyourwaterright.com.
To receive free subscriptions by email, email us at info@useyourwaterright.com.

Help us out, we would love to see your articles about everything that has to do with the outdoors, landscaping, Gardening, Lawn Care, Flowers, you name it. Write about it and send it to chrisv@useyourwaterright.com. If your article is published, you will receive a \$20 gift card to a restaurant of your choice.

