

LEAVE LEAVES IN YOUR YARD GUIDE

Tips from Marlboro Green Team and Marlboro Arboretum

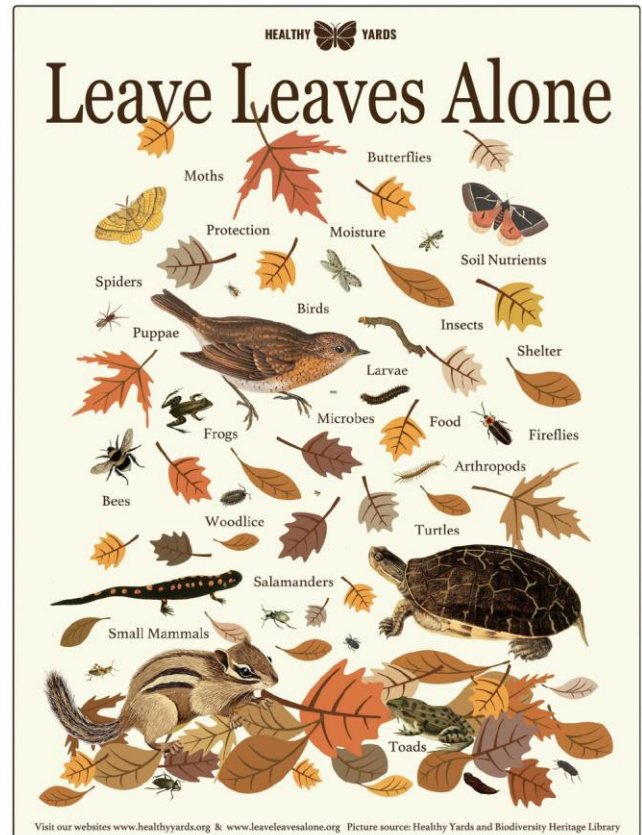
Consider keeping fallen leaves in your garden or yard to help protect important pollinators.

Leaves, stems, and brush piles provide habitat for bumble bees, butterflies, and lady beetles all winter long.

- Great spangled fritillary and woolly bear caterpillars tuck themselves into leaf piles for protection from cold weather and predators.
- Luna moths and swallowtail butterflies disguise their cocoons and chrysalises as dried leaves, blending in with the “real” leaves.
- Bumble bees create nests in cavities underground, in trees, or in brush piles.
- Learn more about overwintering wildlife:

<https://xerces.org/leave-the-leaves>

Be part of the solution! Pollination is essential for our planet and our health. Promote vital ecosystems and support our food sources.



Keeping fallen leaves in your yard can be easy, neat and beneficial!

Below are options to help keep leaves in your yard:

- Rake leaves into thin piles around trees, leave about 4” space around tree trunk.
- Rake leaves into garden beds to serve as a free and nutritious mulch
- Pile leaves into an area of your yard to start an easy compost pile
 - <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/FS074/> Backyard Leaf Composting Fact Sheet
 - <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/FS117/> Using Leaf Compost Fact Sheet
- Mulch the leaves with your lawnmower right on your lawn to act as free natural fertilizer
- Remember, no mulch within four inches around tree trunk, no more than a 3 inch layer
- **Pro-tip:** to create instant mulch and prevent leaves from blowing around, put leaves in a trash can and use a weed whacker to mulch them up like an immersion blender!

More Yard Tips

<https://www.healthyyards.org/homeowners/love-leaves/>

Article by the NJ Conservation Society:

<https://www.njconservation.org/leave-the-autumn-leaves/>