



## Leaf and Yard Program Changes – Spring 2020

### Why is leaf and yard material being collected every other week?

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, we have had to alter the yard waste collection schedule from weekly to bi-weekly. This decision was taken to ensure that we are able to continue collecting the higher priority waste to maintain proper sanitation, such as garbage, organics and recycling. We are working with our waste collection contractor to support these essential services, and to be able to respond should we encounter staff shortages due to illness.

### When will leaf and yard collection start?

Leaf and yard collection will begin April 21, 2020 and will be collected every two weeks on your regular garbage collection day.

- If you live in the “yellow zone”, collection begins the week of April 21
- If you live in the “blue zone”, collection begins the week of April 28

Due to varying amounts of material, routes may be completed the following day – please leave the material at the curb. High volume areas may see additional collection, including service on Mondays or Saturdays. These areas will be repeated on the scheduled collection day. Visit the Solid Waste program page at [vaughan.ca/waste](http://vaughan.ca/waste) for details and requirements.

### Where can I obtain a leaf and yard sticker to label my container?

Leaf and yard waste stickers can be mailed to your location. Please call Access Vaughan at 905-832-2281 to request a label.

### Where can I take my leaf and yard material?

Leaf and yard material can be taken to York Region’s Bloomington Yard Waste Depot located at 1351 Bloomington Road in Richmond Hill. The facility will accept one cubic yard (approximately nine bags of material) from York Region residents free of charge until June 30, 2020. For more information, such as hours of operation and accepted material please check the Region's website at [www.york.ca/wastedepots](http://www.york.ca/wastedepots)

### Is there any limit to how much Leaf and Yard material I can place curbside?

At this time, we do not have a limit on the amount of leaf and yard material that can be placed curbside for collection. Due to varying amounts of material, routes may be completed the following day – please leave the material at the curb. High volume areas may see additional collection, including service on Mondays or Saturdays. These areas will be repeated on the scheduled collection day. Visit the Solid Waste Management page at [vaughan.ca/waste](http://vaughan.ca/waste) for details and requirements.



### **Can I backyard compost my leaf and yard material?**

Backyard composting is an excellent way to manage your leaf and yard waste. Composting creates a rich, earthy material from the natural decomposition process that can be used as a natural fertilizer on your garden. For more information about backyard composting visit [Vaughan.ca/waste](http://Vaughan.ca/waste).

### **When is the best time to begin my spring garden clean up?**

Several native insects, including bees, butterflies, moth and spiders may have spent the winter in the hollow stems of your outdoor plants or hiding in soil and leaf litter within your garden. To protect these creatures, it is recommended that you wait as long as possible to do spring cleanup. Ideally, the daytime temperature should constantly be over 10 degrees Celsius.

### **How do I keep my leaf and yard material dry?**

To keep your bagged leaf and yard materials protected from the outdoor elements you may consider moving them to a protected location in the yard (or covering them with a tarp). This will help keep the bags intact until collection begins. The City also accepts leaf and yard material set out for collection in containers up to 121 liters (32 gallons) without wheels or lids. Containers set out for collection should have handles and be marked leaf and yard waste. Leaf and yard waste stickers can be mailed to your location by calling Access Vaughan at 905-832-2281.