

# **Guidelines for Disposal of Recyclable Garden Material**



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City of Greenbelt, Maryland  
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### Accepted Garden Recyclables:

- Leaves
- Wood Chips
- Mulch
- Grass Clippings
- Small Branches

### Prohibited Items:

- Trash
- Tree Trunks or Large Limbs
- Plastic Bags
- Appliances
- Soil
- Furniture
- Gas Powered Equipment
- Large Rocks or Gravel
- Sheds or Patio Sets
- Invasive species such as bamboo, English ivy, kudzu, barberry, and tree of heaven branches, stems, or cuttings

## Disposal of invasive species:

**Invasive plant disposal poses a tricky problem. If not properly done, some invasive plants will continue to grow and set seed despite being pulled out of the ground. It is important to know how tenacious your plant is in order to figure out how to make sure you do not spread the infestation through your disposal method. Listed below are recommendations for proper disposal:**

- **Be sure the plant is dead before placing in a mulch or compost pile. Either dry it out in the sun (on a tarp or some impervious surface) so that there is no green whatsoever left on the plant, or bag it in a heavy duty black plastic bag (and be sure to seal it up) for a while until the plants inside have turned to mush. You can clip the roots from the stem before drying it out to further limit the plants resources for survival.**
- **Pull the plant before it has flowered or gone to seed. Certain plants, flowers can mature and set seed even after the plant has been pulled.**
- **If you have flowers and/or seeds on the plant, bring your disposal bag to your weeding site and put the flowers and seed heads into the bag head first so that there is minimal risk in dispersing in transport.**
- **Pile all of the invasive plants in one pile and cover with a tarp fastening it to the ground using rocks, wood or steaks. Monitor the perimeter of the tarp for any escapees. This can be added to over time like a mulch pile.**



## Illegal Dumping is against the Law and.....

- Illegal dumping destroys native meadow, woods and animal habitats by introducing disease, weeds and pests - It also increases the risk of fires
- Illegal dumping attracts more illegal dumping and other criminal activities, decreases community pride and discourages people from visiting affected areas
- Illegal dumping costs local and state governments and the communities millions of dollars a year in prevention and clean-up costs

