

## November Newsletter: Leave the Leaves!

As our Autumn leaves drift to the ground, consider leaving some of them be this time around. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service recommends giving the rake a rest and leaving a layer of leaves on your yard. Doing so can suppress weeds, fertilize the soil as it decomposes, and provide valuable habitat for wildlife like lizards, birds, turtles, frogs, and beneficial insects that overwinter in fallen leaves. This habitat supports soil health and pollinators for your garden.

If you're worried about leaves negatively impacting your lawn, you can manage leaf mulch piles in select areas of your yard. This leaf mulch can support your trees by moderating extreme temperatures and keeping more moisture in the ground.

Here are some places where you can learn more about best practices and beneficial uses of fallen leaves.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2022/10/17/fall-leave-leaves>

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