

## **Brush/Vegetation**

February, 2013

State law does not allow brush, grass clippings, trees, etc. to be put into a sanitary landfill. Because landfills are expensive to construct and maintain and because siting new landfills is nearly impossible due to objections from "neighbors" such non-hazardous waste was banned a number of years ago.

Some towns have authorized brush/tree burn piles within their community. Often these are not available for use so we have a brush/tree pile at the Transfer Station. Additionally, we have a grass/leaf site as well. We keep these two materials separate for a good reason.

Brush and trees go to a burn pile. This material is stored for a period of time. Then periodically when an appropriate amount of material has been collected and weather conditions are correct the material is burnt. Obviously, burning is not the best disposition of this material. Anytime you can use this material or give it to someone needing firewood, etc. it would be a better use.

Grass clippings and leaves would burn but they can be used as a soil enhancement. Consequently, we keep them separate and use them on the poor soils of the old, closed landfill slopes. When sufficient amounts of this material have been collected it is spread on the landfill slopes for humus build up.

As an Agency, we would encourage that grass clippings and leaves be kept at your own yard. Use of mulching mowers will put this material back into your soil and will NOT look bad if it is done in a proper fashion. Don't let the grass grow too tall and the material will filter to the soil surface, decompose, and be nutrients for your current grass. Small amounts of leaves can be mulched in the fall in the same manner. Leaves can also be bagged and in this crushed form serve as good mulch around plants, shrubs, garden crops, etc. You might ask a neighbor if they would have a use for your clippings and leaves.

At the Transfer Station these materials are taken at no charge to you. You just need to keep them separate from other waste as the attendants will not allow any such waste to be mixed with garbage. Such loads will be refused or you will have to sort them out yourself. Also, garbage collectors are not allowed by law to collect this material with your garbage.

Ask the attendant at the scales for help with how to dispose of these materials. The grass/leaf area is up by the scales and the brush pile is located down to the north of the garbage building. There are white rock roads to each location.