



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Linn County, Iowa

Alternatives to Burning Yard Waste in Linn County

1. Household waste pickup services:

a. What company provides waste pickup in your area? Do they also provide pickup services for yard waste?

i. If your hauler does not provide such a service, the following do:

1. Country Mile Disposal – (319) 560-8982

2. Rudd Sanitation – (319) 438-6563

Contact them for rate information. Note, the Department does not endorse any particular waste hauler, rather is supplying this information as a courtesy to residents of Linn County.

2. **Composting yard waste at home is doubly beneficial. Yard waste is managed on site (no cost related to transporting or hauling waste) and the “waste” is turned into useful compost that can greatly improve your garden, landscape, or potting soils.**

3. **If unable to find a company to provide this service to your home the yard waste can be collected on-site and periodically hauled to a compost facility.**

a. Compost Facilities:

Linn County Solid Waste Authority

Site 1: 2250 A Street SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Phone: 398-5160

Site 2: 1954 County Home Rd.
Marion, IA 52302

Phone: 377-5290

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday: 7am-4:30pm
Saturday: 8am-3pm

Starting January 1, 2010: Monday-Saturday: 7am-4:30pm

Cost: \$15.00 per ton (\$5 minimum charge) both sites

Materials: Site 1: They have started a Biomass Project, and are accepting ANY wood materials, along with yard waste (no size limit)

Site 2: No tree limbs over 4 inches in diameter

Marion Compost Facility

195 35th Street
Marion, IA 52302
Hours of operation: Monday-Friday: 7am-3:15pm
Tuesday: 7am-5:45pm
Saturday: 8am-4:15pm
Cost: Free for citizens of Marion
Phone: 377-6367
Materials: No tree limbs over 6" diameter

- 4. Mulch tree branches from storm damage and tree trimming for use in home landscape, gardens, paths, etc. using a mulcher/chipper-shredder (mulchers/chipper-shredder can be purchased, rented, etc. One possibility is for your neighborhood to collectively rent a mulcher for everyone to use for their tree trimmings, etc. for one/two weekends per year bringing the cost down).**
- 5. Leaves accumulated on lawns are best treated using a mulching lawnmower blade. The leaves are shredded up into smaller pieces that readily break down, providing nutrients and organic material for a healthy lawn. This saves time and work raking, bagging, etc.**
- 6. You may place an ad at no charge in the Cedar Rapids Gazette up to 4 lines offering free materials (i.e. fire wood).**
- 7. Additional Resources:**
 - a. ISU Linn County Extension Office: Composting brochures, Master Composter Volunteers (319) 377-9839 (extension office) or (319) 447-0647 (master composter)
 - b. Linn County Solid Waste Agency: Stacie Johnson – Community Educator (319) 377-5290
 - c. Books: Linn County libraries have more than 30 titles on the subjects of composting and mulching.
 - d. Websites:
 - i. <http://www.solidwasteagency.org/pdf/2005companionF.pdf>
 - ii. <http://www.iowadnr.com/waste/recycling/organics/index.html>
 - iii. <http://www.iowacity.com/city/compost.htm>
 - iv. http://www.howtocompost.org/success_story_walter2.asp
 - v. www.css.cornell.edu/compost/composting_homepage.html