

**For Immediate Release
September 11, 2009**

City of Columbus Residents Encouraged To Sign Up for Second Six Months Of Yard Waste Subscription Service With Rumpke Before Autumn Leaves Fall

(Columbus) City of Columbus residents can sign up now for the second six months of subscription yard waste pickup service through Rumpke that will run from October to April 2010. To date, 12,926 residents have signed up during the first six months of the service that started in April 2009 after the City's budget crisis forced free yard waste pickup to be cut. The service costs \$49.50 for each six month period.

"The yard waste program continues to meet residents' needs for yard waste pickup and supports our green efforts, especially with the autumn yard waste season approaching," said Department of Public Service Director Mark Kelsey. "Residents need to sign up or renew their yard waste subscriptions now before the leaves begin to fall."

Subscribers who signed up for the first six month period, April to October, will need to renew their subscriptions if they wish to continue the service through April 2010. Residents who do not sign up for the program may drop off their yard waste free-of-charge at any of nine locations, including the City's Compost Facility at 7000 Jackson Pike (see attached fact sheet). Residents may also compost their yard waste for later use as fertilizer for their gardens.

The City will honor the one-year, \$1 million contract with Rumpke through its conclusion in mid-April 2010. Restoration of free curbside yard waste pickup as it was provided in 2008 and is expected to occur shortly after expiration of the Rumpke contract.

The recycling of yard waste saves the City money it would otherwise be charged in tipping fees to dispose of the waste; yard waste cannot be placed in the Franklin County Landfill. The yard waste subscription service and drop-off locations also give residents another opportunity to be green. In addition, returning grass clippings to yards will keep lawns healthy.

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Rumpke Yard Waste Subscription Program Fact Sheet

- ◆ Sign up for the Rumpke yard waste subscription service by calling Rumpke at 1-888-786-7531
- ◆ Subscription cost is \$49.50 for six months of service, which breaks down to \$1.90 a week. Cost applies regardless when you sign up during the six-month period.
- ◆ Subscribers can set out for collection 15 bags per week. Subscribers also can purchase \$1 tags for each additional bag, can or bundle of yard waste above 15 bag/bundle limit.
- ◆ Yard waste includes: leaves; branches; twigs; grass clippings; shrubbery
- ◆ Loose materials should be placed in biodegradable (paper) bags or in rigid containers marked for yard waste. Bags are generally available for purchase at home improvement or grocery retail stores.
 - Branches should be cut to four feet lengths and tied with twine or string into bundles no wider than two feet. Each bag, bundle or container must weigh less than 50 pounds.
 - Plastic bags will not be accepted in the yard waste program
- ◆ The yard-waste collected is taken to a processing center and turned into soils, mulches and compost.
- ◆ The locations of free drop-off sites can be found on the City of Columbus' web site at www.columbus.gov. Click on the Yard Waste link under "Quick Links" on the far right side of the City's home page.
- ◆ Free drop-off sites for Columbus residents (Yard waste must be in biodegradable paper bags or bundled; yard waste in plastic bags not accepted):
 - Com-Til, the City's compost facility (no grass clippings): 7000 Jackson Pike, Columbus (614) 645-3152
 - Kurtz Bros. and Mulch Manufacturing Inc. (leaves, small branches, grass clippings and holiday trees): Residents may be asked to show proof that you are a Columbus or Franklin County resident. Professional landscapers required to pay drop off fee
 - 2850 Rohr Road, Groveport (Kurtz Bros.); (614) 491-0868
 - 6055-C Westerville Road, Westerville (Kurtz Bros.); (614) 882-0200
 - 6279 Houchard Road, Dublin (Kurtz Bros.); (614) 873-2000
 - 6747 Taylor Road S.W. (Mulch Manufacturing, Inc.); (614) 864-4004
 - The Ohio Mulch: Please be prepared with a driver's license or some form of documentation identifying you as a Columbus resident, otherwise you will be charged. Posted signs referring to a \$12 fee do not apply to Columbus residents dropping off residential yard waste.
 - 4120 Roberts Road, Columbus (Ohio Mulch); (614) 921-9330
 - 4665 Westerville Rd. (Ohio Mulch); (614) 891-3242
 - 1600 Universal Rd. (Ohio Mulch); (614) 445-4455
 - 537 Reynoldsburg-New Albany Rd. (Ohio Mulch); (614) 863-0445