

Regional Waste Reduction Office

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www.regionaldistrict.com



MEDIA RELEASE

July 15th, 2009: **Yard Waste Contamination**

Only YARD WASTE in the wheeled yard waste cart please! That request from the Regional Waste Reduction Office now that the new automated waste collection program is in full swing for most Central Okanagan residents.

"We're facing some challenges with contamination of the yard waste collected at the curb," says Waste Reduction Facilitator Rae Stewart. "Things that don't belong in the cart are ending up there, and that's creating some big headaches."

Stewart explains once the yard waste is collected from the curb, it's brought to the landfill, composted and screened, and then sold to residents as Glenmore Grow. This nutrient rich soil amender is so popular with locals it usually sells out as soon as it's in stock.

"The biggest offender is plastic bags, but even things like garbage and sod are finding their way into the carts," says Stewart. "When this happens it means increased costs associated with processing the yard waste into compost. It also translates into a far less valuable and usually un-saleable product, damage to processing equipment, and an unsightly mess at the landfill as well."

Stewart adds, "Collecting and composting yard waste separately is a major component of our waste reduction program. Since March of this year alone over 3,300 tonnes of yard waste has been collected from the curb and diverted from our landfill."

What To Put into Your Yard Waste Cart:

- Grass, leaves pine needles and pine cones
- Garden plants, corn and tomato stalks
- Branches and prunings up to 5 centimeters (2inches) in diameter and less than one metre (3 feet) in length.

The Regional District of Central Okanagan and its member municipalities have been rolling out the new Automated Waste Collection program since early February. By the end of the distribution program, to wrap up in a few weeks, more than 150,000 carts will be delivered to homes in the Central Okanagan that

receive curbside garbage and recycling collection. The new bi-weekly yard waste collection, from March through November, replaces the seasonal curbside pickups formerly offered.

On your yard waste collection week, please remember to put your yard waste out for collection by 7:00 am on the morning of your regular garbage day. If you have yet to receive your new yard waste cart, and are still using bags, bags must be see through, and each bag or re-useable container must weigh less than 23 kilograms (50lbs). Pruning's ½ inch or smaller can also be bundles, but the bundles must not be longer than one meter.

For information, please check the Regional District website at www.regionaldistrict.com.

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