

## Managing Moulding

Fill cage with raked up wet leaves from the ground so you don't have to water them first.

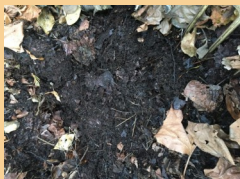
Leaves will settle in within a few weeks. Top up the cage at the end of autumn. Do not overfill the cage as the top layer can dry out & dry leaves can then blow away during windy weather.

Keep the cage open to the environment so that rainfall can keep materials moist.

In drier months, check cage for moisture. Mix & water the top layer as necessary.

Do not be tempted to add leaves from the following season to your older leaf mould. Start new cages for next season's leaves. This makes harvesting leaf mould easier the following year.

Some leaf mould may be ready to use as a mulch after a year. After two years, your leaf mould compost should be ready & will resemble a dark, crumbly compost. You'll find finished leaf mould in the middle of the pile often under a dry layer of leaves on top (see photo above).



Screen leaf mould & return under composted leaves to a new or existing leaf mould bin or cage.

Use the leaf mould in the same way you would use compost: as a mulch, a soil amendment, or as an ingredient in a potting mix.

## Leaf Mould Cages



**Yes—Proper sized bin & cage  
in a shady location**



**No—Cage too small  
Brambles invading**

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Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

## North Central Area

### Leaf fall



*A guide for  
Community &  
Environmental Groups*

## Thank you!

Trees...Did you know that trees absorb carbon dioxide & potentially harmful gasses, such as sulphur dioxide from the air & release vital oxygen back into the atmosphere? One large tree can yield a day's supply of oxygen for four people! Beautiful to look at, they are essential for our health & that's why they play such a vital part in the public areas of our city.

Did you also know that their leaves make the most wonderful compost & mulch for common areas for FREE? More on this later!

However, we do acknowledge that public trees yield a lot of leaves....so many in fact, that we need your help.

So if composting isn't your thing (though we seriously encourage you to give it a go!), we will provide you with compostable leaf sacks so that they can escape landfill & fulfil their potential as beautiful compost!

We are most grateful for any help in the gathering of PUBLIC leaves that you can render, so a HUGE THANK YOU for your help & civic pride—it makes all the difference!



## Let's get started...

Try to compost leaves in your garden or community if you can, but if this is not an option for you, then please use an official Dublin City Council compostable leaf bag for public leaves.

- ⇒ Place only public leaves in the bag & just fill half way & tie a knot
- ⇒ Place bags in a safe prominent residentially agreed location in your area. Do not block pathways, roadways, laneways or driveways or cause an issue for your neighbours
- ⇒ Telephone 01-222 8870 or email [northcentral@dublincity.ie](mailto:northcentral@dublincity.ie) putting "Community Autumn Leaf Collection" in the subject line, specifying the exact address where the filled bags are located, quantity of bags, your name, address, contact phone number & the name of your group.

## Leaf Mould...

### *The easiest way to make compost!*

Autumn is the perfect time to collect leaves for composting which can then be used in the following four ways:

1. As a mulch in your garden or around bushes in perennial planting areas to keep weeds down & to retain moisture in the soil during drier summer months
2. To balance composting ingredients in the spring & summer when there are so many green materials such as grass cuttings
3. In a wormery as critical bedding material
4. Composted on their own, leaves can be placed in bins or cages to produce lovely weed-free leaf mould compost in 1-2 years time.

### *Steps to set up a Leaf Mould System*

Pick a shady location near trees that drop autumn leaves.

Keep cages away from ivy, bind weed or brambles/ briars so that these weeds do not contaminate the leaf mould.

If the cage is placed under a tree, place several layers of cardboard or a woven weed barrier underneath to prevent tree roots from growing up into the leaf mould pile.

Build a large enough cage so it can retain moisture needed to sustain the leaf mould process. Cover with black plastic to retain moisture in drier summer months. Pallet bins are large enough to make good leaf mould. Cages should be a minimum diameter of 1.5m & can be as large as 3m in size.