

The Resource

A Publication of the City of North Augusta
Stormwater Management Department

Yard Waste

Compost or Collect



Recycling can mean more than separating bottles, cans and paper. A natural and increasingly popular way to recycle is to collect leaves and place them in a compost bin. These leaves, combined with grass clippings and kitchen scraps (no animal products), quickly decompose and become compost, which can be used for both indoor and outdoor plants.

Those who don't have a compost bin rely on the city's Sanitation Services Department which picks up tons of yard waste annually. Because of the quantity and bulk of yard waste, the Sanitation Services Department has established recommended practices and procedures for its collection.

Sanitation customers are encouraged to cooperate by following these procedures:

- Yard waste that is not composted should be placed in plastic bags at the curb. It should never be placed in a roll cart.
- Yard waste should never be placed in the gutter, street or storm drainage system.
- Large bulky items including limbs, logs and boards should be stacked neatly behind the curb line.
- Because yard waste is collected by special equipment, it should never be placed under low wires or tree limbs, or close to potential obstructions like utility poles, mailboxes, parked cars or roll carts.

Illicit Discharge Ordinance

On August 18, 2003, the North Augusta City Council approved an Illicit Discharge Ordinance. The ordinance was passed in compliance with federally mandated stormwater management program guidelines. The ordinance:

- Prohibits illicit connections or discharges to the storm sewer. (Illicit *connections* include the piping of laundry discharges or raw sewage into the storm sewage system. Illicit *discharges* include the disposal of paint, oil, trash or yard debris into the street or storm sewer.)

- Ensures the proper installation and maintenance of sediment controls on construction sites.
- Establishes the legal authority to carry out all procedures necessary to ensure compliance with the ordinance.

Anyone with questions or concerns about possible illicit discharges should contact the Stormwater Management Department.

A copy of the Illicit Discharge Ordinance is available at www.northaugusta.net.



"I adore the beauty and tranquillity of these raw-sewage days."

Plant a tree!



Trees have a number of advantages over lawns from both environmental and energy efficiency perspectives.

- Trees planted on the west and south sides of houses provide shade which can significantly reduce air conditioning costs in the summer months.
- Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the fall allowing the sun's radiant energy to help warm the house in the winter months.
- Evergreen trees can be used for privacy and to shelter a home or yard from wind.
- Trees help reduce heat reflected along streets and sidewalks.
- Tree foliage absorbs carbon dioxide for photosynthesis while producing oxygen and helping to filter pollutants from the air.
- Fallen leaves absorb rainfall while tree roots stabilize the soil, reducing the harmful effects of stormwater runoff.
- Trees generally require less water, fertilizer and pesticides than lawns.
- Trees provide nesting sites and, in some cases, food for wildlife.
- Trees help reduce noise pollution.
- Tree leaves may be recycled for use as compost, a natural fertilizer.

Sources: *International Society of Arboriculture, Champaign, IL.*
Clemson University Cooperative Extension, www.clemson.edu.

Antifreeze

With the approach of cold weather, a common task involves adding or changing antifreeze in automobile radiators. Antifreeze is a highly toxic substance comprised primarily of ethylene glycol.

Unfortunately, antifreeze has a sweet smell and taste, making it attractive to small children and animals. If ingested, a surprisingly small amount can result in death or severe injury.

In addition to its toxicity, antifreeze can pollute water supplies if it finds its way into storm drains which are usually direct routes to surface waters. It can also, if poured into a drain leading to a septic tank, kill bacteria necessary for proper septic tank operation and enter the groundwater.

Safe Handling Practices

The best way to prevent antifreeze from creating health and environmental hazards is to:

- Fix leaky radiators.
- Store leftover antifreeze in its original, labeled container and make sure the lid is secure.
- Keep antifreeze out of reach of children and pets.
- If an antifreeze spill or leak occurs, clean it up immediately. Spreading an absorbent material on top of the antifreeze and sweeping it up is the best method.
- If you change your antifreeze, drain it into a labeled container.



Antifreeze may be brought to the city's Household Hazardous Waste Collection event March 13, 2004 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the Crossroads Market Shopping Center. See page four for more information.

Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods Seminar

Creating and maintaining attractive landscapes to enhance our community and to protect South Carolina's natural environment was the focus of a recent seminar sponsored by the Stormwater Management Department.

Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods is a public education program of the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. The goal of the program is to teach South Carolina homeowners how to make positive changes in the environmental quality of their yards, neighborhoods and surrounding waterways.

Clemson Extension Agent Suzanne Holmes shared many landscaping strategies that protect the environment and signifi-

cantly reduce maintenance time and costs.

Carolina Yard Strategies:

- Use the right plant in the right place
- Water efficiently
- Fertilize appropriately
- Properly use mulch
- Attract wildlife
- Control yard pests responsibly
- Recycle
- Reduce stormwater runoff
- Protect water quality

Program participants received a free workbook and a CD with additional information, including a



Clemson Extension Agent Suzanne Holmes shares tips with audience members.

searchable plant database and a list of additional resources.

Another Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods seminar has been scheduled for March 16 and 18, 2004, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the North Augusta Community Center.

The program is free but space is limited. For more information, call 803-441-4246 or 803-649-6297.

Species Profile **Rocky Shoals Spider Lily**

Hymenocallis coronaria

The rocky shoals spider lily, also known as the shoals spider lily or the cahaba lily, is found in major streams and rivers in rocky shoals and in cracks of exposed bedrock in South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama.

The rocky shoals spider lily is a perennial that emerges each spring from a large bulb anchored among the rocks. One to three stalks emerge, each producing a group of six to nine flowers. The large white flowers open in late afternoon, emitting a pleasant fragrance before withering the next day. The flowering period is from mid-May to mid-June with peak blooming toward the end of May.

The lily was first described in 1773 by the famous naturalist and explorer William Bartram. After observing a population in the Savannah River near Augusta, he wrote, "nothing in vegetable nature is more pleasing than the odoriferous *Pancratium fluitans*, which alone possesses the little rocky islets which just appear above the water." The rocky shoals spider lily was later reclassified *Hymenocallis coronaria*.

Today there are 50 identified colonies of the rocky shoals spider lily. The Savannah River is one local habitat of this rare and beautiful flowering plant. The plant is listed as an endangered species in Georgia and as a species of concern in South Carolina. It has been proposed for



Rocky Shoals Spider Lily

Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS
PLANTS Database / USDA SCS, 1989.

federal endangered species status. Threats to its environment include dam building and sedimentation build-up from land disturbances.

A good vantage point from which to observe the lily is from the Savannah River Bluffs Heritage Preserve. The 83.84-acre preserve is located just outside the city limits of North Augusta. The preserve has 1,076 feet of river frontage along one of the few remaining river shoals of the Savannah River.

References:
georgiawildlife.dnr.state.ga.us/
www.dnr.state.sc.us/pls/heritage/county

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Saturday, March 13, 2004 • 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Crossroads Market (Kroger) Shopping Center

The Stormwater Management Department is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Collection at Crossroads Market (Kroger) Shopping Center on Martintown Road on Saturday, March 13, 2004, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Representatives of a national hazardous waste handler, volunteers from the Department of Health and Environmental Control, and city staff will be on site to provide residents an opportunity to safely dispose of unwanted paint, motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides, solvents and other potential pollutants.



For additional information contact:

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