It is that time of year when the trees start to shed their leaves all over your lawn and everyone grabs their gas powered leaf blowers to tidy up! This year, pause a second and think of natural alternatives to powering up that gas leaf blower.

**Natural Supplement:**  Leaves are a natural nutrient for garden soil and especially under trees where bare roots are vulnerable to erosion. Leave areas under trees blanketed in leaves for the winter. Blowing leaves from planting beds disturbs the plants for spring generation and destroys insect habitats. Many butterflies and native non stinging bees hibernate in leaf litter. If we remove that litter there will be less pollinators.

**Go Electric:** By going electric or using battery operated leaf blowers you eliminate noise pollution and environmental damage that fumes from gas leaf blowers cause.

Gardening classes are offered at the Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College. Virtual classes are being offered this fall.

Go to: [www.sunywcc.edu/continuing-ed/lifelonglearning/career-prep-certificate-program/home-garden](http://www.sunywcc.edu/continuing-ed/lifelonglearning/career-prep-certificate-program/home-garden)

For further information about leaf blowers and lead mulching there is also a Westchester County initiative on leaving leaves alone: [www.leleny.org](http://www.leleny.org)



Yorktown Conservation Board