



From Murfreesboro's

Department of Communications

(615) 848-3245 or citytv@murfreesborotn.gov

Contact City Public Information Officer Chris Shofner for more information at (615) 642-3230.

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Yard waste pickup delayed due to weather

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -- A wetter than usual season so far and the fast growing grass, limbs and other yard waste that has resulted has put a strain on Murfreesboro Solid Waste Department and delayed pickups in some areas.

Murfreesboro Solid Waste Director Joey Smith asks for patience while his crews move throughout the city, some streets with a great deal to collect and others with very little. When going out for the day, crews never know what they will find. In some cases, it may take a couple of hours to clear a pile of brush, in others, only 15 minutes.

Where normally his crews would be getting around the city every two weeks or so, that time has been lengthened to every 20 to 30 days, he said. This is due to the sheer volume of what the crews have to pick up.

"If you will remember last year on July 4 and all through Tennessee," Smith continued, "it was basically a drought. Last year at this time we picked up about 15,000 tons of brush."

"Here we are in early August and it was 57 degrees this morning," he said. "It's been a very unusual year for yard waste."

Yard waste must be no longer than 10 feet, Smith said. This is to prevent the waste hanging over the sides of the truck and causing a hazard. Yard waste, including tree branches, weeds, leaves, plants and shrubs cannot be placed in city-issued garbage carts and must either be placed loose by the curb or placed in biodegradable bags. Grass clippings, dumping of which is not allowed at the landfill, should be mulched or composted (no burning).

Pickup for bulk items should be called in to the solid waste department at 893-3681 to arrange for a pickup time. Non-metal furniture and corrugated boxes (flattened and tied in bundles weighing no more than 30 pounds) are considered bulk items while appliances, construction debris, rocks, dirt and carpet and carpet padding are prohibited and will not be picked up.

This on-demand system is more efficient and will enable the city to eliminate a second truck following behind the primary trash truck each day.

Citizens can also drop off yard waste at the City's mulching facility located at 4765 Florence Road. The facility is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.