



QuietPrinceton.org

You can help to make your neighborhood quieter

How to convert to “Quiet Landscaping”



Our town is justly renowned for its beauty. An important aspect of its beauty is peacefulness. However, urban noise is an increasing societal problem. In our neighborhoods, the peace is all too often destroyed by the use of powerful leaf blowers. Their noise disturbs scores of people who live a block or several blocks away.

The scene above does not necessarily have to suffer the event pictured below.



There are alternatives! You can take action.

How Quiet Landscaping works:

- If you maintain your own lawn and use a leaf blower, you can learn other methods. (See WHAT TO DO WITH THE LEAVES, below.)
- If you employ a landscape contractor, you can arrange “no leaf blowers” with your current landscape contractor.
- If you want to employ a landscaper who offers a “no leaf blowers” option, you can use our list of landscapers who offer this to homeowners who request it.
- If you want to persuade your neighbors to stop using leaf blowers, you can approach your neighbors about “no leaf blowers” and describe how it works.

OPTION 1:

WITH YOUR CURRENT LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

When you hire a landscaping contractor, you are in control of how the work is performed. If you already have a landscape contractor, instruct him or her to “stop using leaf blowers”. Don’t accept using blowers “a bit.” Say no leaf blowers. Tell him or her that other landscape contractors are doing this.

OPTION 2:

HIRE A NEW LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

If your current landscape contractor won’t stop using leaf blowers, you can hire a new landscaper who will—see the latest list of “Quiet Landscapers” on the QuietPrinceton.org website.

WHAT TO DO WITH THE LEAVES

If you maintain your own lawn, see the alternatives below.

If you employ a landscape contractor, you will need to have a discussion with your current or new landscaper about the treatment of leaves and grass clippings. This is key to your mutual satisfaction, to cost, and to the environment.

Alternatives include:

- leaving grass clippings in place (best; returns nutrition to the soil)
- using a mulching mower for leaves on the lawns
- blowing leaves into beds with a mower
- raking leaves into beds or into a corner of your yard
- raking only in limited, selected places
- raking of most areas previously cleared by leaf blowers (This option may cost more because raking can take more time).
- “Scorched earth” removal of everything, as is often done with leaf blowers.

This is actually bad for the topsoil, birds, and garden life, and removes desirable mulch. It is not recommended and should be avoided.



Questions? Comments? Problems?
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