# Alternatives

- ✓ Leave the leaves -- gather them into flower beds and mulch them into your lawn (*which helps fertilize the soil and provides habitat for wildlife). Wait until June to clear beds to allow over-wintering pollinators a chance to nest.*
- ✓ Electric leaf blowers
- ✓ Use push-powered leaf collectors
- ✓ Tow-behind lawn sweepers
- ✓ Shred leaves into mulch with a lawnmower

# Change the plantings in your lawn

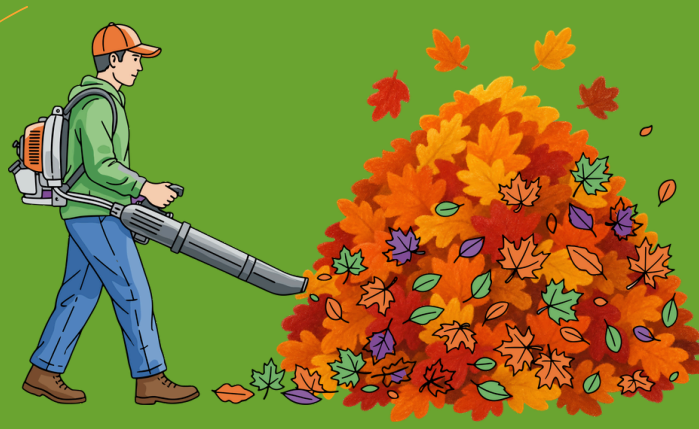
1. Attempt to eliminate as much lawn grass as possible.
   - Plant native plants as large scale ground cover plantings to reduce lawn area or plant ornamental grasses like bunchgrasses.
2. Spread seeding mixtures of wildflowers to create meadows.
3. Set up your lawn so that leaves fall on planted areas rather than lawn.
   - Leaves will feed the microorganisms that improve the health of the soil and make your plants stronger.

## More Information

- **Advocates for Transforming Landscaping in NJ (ATL-NJ)** is a working group you can join to learn more and connect with others regarding resources. https://www.facebook.com/groups/3245938025714107 **Email Atlnewjersey@gmail.com**
- **American Green Zone Alliance (AGZA)** https://agza.net/
- **Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Are Health Hazards** https://mountsinaiexposomics.org/gas-leaf-blowers-are-health-hazards/
- **Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers: The End is Nigh: James Fallows** https://mountsinaiexposomics.org/gas-leaf-blowers-are-health-hazards/
- **In Good Health: How chronic noise exposure affects the human body** https://tinyurl.com/vzn694pn
- **Quiet Communities** https://quietcommunities.org/
- **The First Thing We Do, Let's Kill All the Leaf Blowers** https://tinyurl.com/4c5b2hzz
- **Leave the Leaves!** https://xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves


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# Gas-powered Leaf Blowers

***Why are they so harmful?***

***What can be used instead?***

ANJEC Local Environment Matters

# ABOUT

We are all too familiar with the sound of gas-powered leaf blowers and the smell of the fumes that are released. Noise and air pollution upset neighbors and residents, however even greater problems exist.

Gas-powered leaf blowers have a negative impact on the environment and climate. These machines release carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide, and carcinogenic hydrocarbons into the atmosphere, which impact your health, the health of lawncare workers, and the health of the planet. Along with the chemical pollution generated, the dust produced is also hazardous as it can contain mold, animal feces, heavy metals, and chemicals from herbicides and pesticides. Health issues that can result from exposure include lung cancer, asthma, and cardiovascular disease. Serious hearing problems, such as hearing loss and tinnitus, often result from the noise pollution produced as well.



Wildlife is also disturbed as many organisms use leaves as a habitat. Although there are many alternatives to leaf blowers, it is always best to leave the leaves where they lie as they help generate a healthier soil and a healthier planet.

# LAWS & INCENTIVES

## NJ LEGISLATION

- **Bill S623** (introduced 2026-2027 Session)
  - Bans the sale and utilization of gas-powered lawn equipment in NJ and also provides CBT (Corporation Business Tax) for purchase of specified zero-emission **lawn equipment.|**
- **Bill A3107** *(introduced 2026-2027)*
  - Directs the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to create a rebate program for the purchasing of zero-emission lawn equipment.

## LOCAL ORDINANCES

- **Maplewood**
  - Prohibits the utilization of gas-powered leaf blowers *year round.* (Turbo blower exempted June, July, August)
- **Montclair**
  - Restricts the use of leaf blowers powered by internal combustion engines *year round.*
- **Morristown**
  - Gas-powered leaf blowers are prohibited from *January 1 through September 30.*
- **Princeton**
  - Prohibits the use of gas-powered leaf blowers from *May 16 to September 30 and from December 16 to March 14.*
  - Restricts the use of leaf blowers, mowers, and other lawncare equipment to certain days and certain times. Princeton requires landscaper registration to ensure that landscapers understand Princeton's regulations.
- **South Orange**
  - Restricts the use of leaf blowers powered by internal combustion engines *year round.*

## GAS BLOWERS

- Noisy
- Heavy
- High maintenance costs
- High cost of gas refuelling
- Air pollution
- Cost $100 - $500
- 150+ mph wind speed

## ELECTRIC BLOWERS

- Less noisy
- Light
- Low maintenance costs
- Low cost of electric charging
- No air pollution
- Cost $79 - $150
- 50 - 100 mph wind speed



# FUN FACTS

200 mph wind disrupts animal habitats and ecosystems.

Gas leaf blowers produce noise at a level of 110 decibels (a jet engine from 100 yards produces 135 dB and fireworks produce 150 dB ).

The Hearing Health Foundation states that sounds over 70 dB can harm one's hearing over time.

The hydrocarbon emissions produced during 30 minutes of work with a gas-powered leaf blower are about equal to the emissions from a 3,900 mile drive in a Ford F-150 SVT Raptor pickup truck.