

**For Immediate Release
April 14, 2010**

City of Columbus To Restore Free Weekly Curbside Yard Waste Collection Monday

The City of Columbus will restore free weekly curbside yard waste collections Monday, April 19. The service, provided through a contract with Rumpke, will pick-up yard waste at 227,000 single family homes, the same as in 2008. The city's budget crisis in 2009 forced weekly free yard waste collections to be cut and replaced with a less expensive subscription-only service through Rumpke.

“We must continue to keep yard waste out of the county landfill,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. “Yard waste recycled into compost can be used to beautify neighborhoods and it saves taxpayer dollars that would have been paid to dump at the landfill.”

Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio rules prohibit the city from knowingly dumping yard waste at the Franklin County landfill. Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves, branches, twigs, shrubbery and other organic waste generated during home gardening and landscaping activities. Residents can contact the city's 311 Customer Service Center at 311 or 645-3111 to learn which day is their yard waste pick-up day.

“The restoration of weekly curbside yard waste collection is a priority for City Council,” said Hearcel F. Craig, chair of the Public Service Committee. “It is a service that our residents have told us time and time again they depend on to improve the quality of life in Columbus.”

Yard waste must be put in biodegradable paper bags or rigid containers with the words yard waste on the container's side. Cut branches should be cut to no more than four feet in length and bundled with string or twine.

The contract with Rumpke is a three-year agreement that runs through March 31, 2013, with two one-year renewals following the end of the third year of the contract.