

CITY OF LA GRANDE

GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSING OF YARD AND GARDEN MATERIALS

Effective April 1, 2009

These guidelines are provided to inform La Grande residents of options available for the disposal of unwanted yard and garden materials.

1. **COMPOSTING:** Most materials generated in yards and gardens can be returned to the soil through composting and in-yard recycling.
2. **RECYCLING:** Recyclable yard materials can be deposited at the Waste-Pro Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), 3012 Highway 30, between the Blue Mountain Humane Society Animal Shelter and the US Forest Service Headquarters. Yard materials are accepted March 1 through November 29. The facility is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. everyday except Sunday and Wednesday. There is no cost to La Grande and Island City customers of City Garbage Service and there is no limit on amounts that can be deposited. Acceptable yard materials to be converted to mulch include leaves, grass clippings, brush and vines, tree trimmings and branches up to 8 inches in diameter and 8 feet in length. Not acceptable are metals, plastics, dirt and rocks, paper, and household waste. If you have questions about the yard material recycling program, contact City Garbage Service at 963-5459.

Household recyclables, including paper, cardboard, certain plastics, glass, and oil, can be delivered to City Garbage Service Recycling Center at 1204 North Willow Street.

3. **BURNING:** Limited open burning is allowed, but restricted by La Grande City Ordinances, Oregon Administrative Rules on clean air (OAR Chapter 340 Division 264), and Oregon Fire Code Section 307. When considering the burning of yard and garden materials or the lighting of recreation fires or bonfires, contact City of La Grande Fire Department, 1806 Cove Avenue, telephone 963-3123 for permit information, advice, and response to questions.

A. Burning of any material in residential burn barrels is prohibited.

B. Residential open burning is allowed by permit during the spring months of April and May and the fall months of October and November, unless restricted due to hazardous fire or weather conditions.

- C. By La Grande City Resolution, permits for residential open burning during a two-month burn period are \$10.00. Purchase of a permit is required prior to initiation of a planned open burn. Guidelines will be explained when the permit is issued, and a copy of the guidelines attached.
- E. Bonfires associated with school pep rallies or similar group events are allowed and require issuance of a burn permit. Only clean, non-treated and dry wood products may be burned.
- F. Recreation fires, such as pit barbecues, supervised group or girl or boy scout cooking fires and small warming fires, are allowed and do not require the issuance of a burn permit. Only clean, non-treated, dry wood products may be burned.
- G. Open burning associated with Fire Department training exercises are allowed and do not require the issuance of a burn permit.
- H. Violations: The Fire Department may require that any burning in violation of a La Grande City Ordinance and the Oregon Fire Code be immediately extinguished and a citation may be issued. Violations are punishable, upon conviction, by a fine of not less than \$50.00 or more than \$500.00.

GUIDELINES FOR BONFIRES AND RECREATION FIRES

1. The Fire Department shall be notified prior to commencement of a bonfire or recreation fire. If firefighters are away from the station, a notification message left on the fire department telephone answering machine will meet the notification requirements.
2. Recreation fires shall not be within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material unless contained in a barbecue pit. The immediate area should be cleared of standing grass or other combustible materials to prevent the spread of the fire.
3. A long-handled shovel, garden rake, and garden hose connected to a water supply and charged, and/or a fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating should be readily available for use at open burning sites.
4. A person must be continually present who is familiar with the burning guidelines and capable of using the garden hose and hand tools to manage the size of the fire, and

to quickly control any unwanted spread of the fire to other combustible materials. Fires must be attended until extinguished.

5. Bonfires will be restricted in size. Prior to issuing a permit, the fire department will inspect the site of the proposed bonfire for compliance with the guidelines. The size to be allowed will be determined by the City of La Grande Fire Chief.

GUIDELINES FOR
RESIDENTIAL OPEN BURNING OF YARD AND GARDEN MATERIALS

1. Residential open burning shall occur only on days when the Air Pollution Index results in the issuance of a "Burn Day" Advisory as defined in the Union County Air Quality Improvement Program. Daily air quality for La Grande can be determined by calling 963-4040, option #2 during the Spring Burning Season, and 963-2201 for the Fall Burning Season.. It is also posted in the La Grande Observer.
2. Residential open burning shall not be conducted on days when wind speed is 10 miles per hour or greater.
3. No materials may be burned other than: Small pruned tree limbs, vines, shrubs or other yard and garden debris, and untreated milled lumber. All materials must be dry.
4. Burning of materials that produce dense smoke and noxious odors is prohibited. Prohibited materials include, but are not limited to: Lawn grass clippings and leaves, unattached tree bark, standing grass and brush, construction or demolition debris, treated milled lumber, plastic materials, paper products, tires or rubber products, railroad ties, roofing materials, household garbage and food waste, waste oil or other petroleum products, wire insulation, automobile parts or vehicle bodies, dead animals, dog or cat manure or other animal feces.
5. The Fire Department shall be notified prior to commencement of a residential open burn. If firefighters are away from the station, a notification message left on the fire department telephone answering machine will meet the notification requirements.
6. The recommended burn pile size is 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height. Burn piles of this size must be at least 25 feet from any structure or other combustible material. On large sites, burn pile size may increase to 10 feet in diameter and 5 feet in height. These piles must be placed at least 50 feet from any structure or other combustible material. No burn pile may exceed 10 feet in diameter and 5 feet in height.
7. Burn piles should be stacked loosely to allow for good airflow and clean burning. In the event that are multiple burn piles at a single site all meet the distance requirements of these guidelines, only one pile at a time may be burned.
8. The immediate area of the burn pile should be cleared of standing grass or other combustible materials to prevent a possible spread of the fire.
9. A long-handled shovel, garden rake, and garden hose connected to a water supply and charged should be readily available for use at open burning sites.
10. A person must be continually present who is familiar with the burning guidelines and capable of using the garden hose and hand tools to manage the size of the fire, and to quickly control

any unwanted spreading of the fire to other combustible materials. Fires must be attended until extinguished.

11. Fires must be completely extinguished by the actual time of sunset. Residents that allow the fire to glow or smolder after sunset will be in violation of the burn guidelines.