

2022 Yard Waste Collection

The following 2022 yard waste collection dates have been selected based on operational input and resident feedback received in 2021.

Collection Date	Collection Residences
Spring 2022	
April 25 and May 30, 2022	All homes receiving Tuesday collection
May 2 and June 6, 2022	All homes receiving Wednesday collection
May 9 and June 13, 2022	All homes receiving Thursday collection
May 16 and June 20, 2022	All homes receiving Friday collection
Fall 2022	
October 3 and November 7, 2022	All homes receiving Tuesday collection
October 17 and November 14, 2022	All homes receiving Wednesday collection
October 24 and November 21, 2022	All homes receiving Thursday collection
October 31 and November 28, 2022	All homes receiving Friday collection

- Spring yard waste collection dates are later than in 2021 based on more complete fall cleanup last year as a result of a late first snow.
- Fall yard waste collection dates are also later based on low set out volumes for September collection dates in 2021 and resident feedback about the necessity of a post-Halloween collection day for every home.

2022 will be the first year in which all homes receiving curbside collection will have access to all four seasonal collection dates in the year.

- Operational standards are being clarified to ensure that yard waste is successfully collected from double-ply paper yard waste bags and any coloured see-through plastic bags.
- Yard waste collection advertisements and education materials are being updated to ensure residents are aware of yard waste collection dates and well-informed about acceptable bags.

Residents will receive direct notice of these yard waste collection days through the collection schedule calendars that will be mailed out in March 2022. Residents that opt out of receiving a printed calendar will be able to access information about yard waste collection from the free WasteWise App and the City website.

Considerations for Additional Yard Waste Collection

Administration carefully considered the feedback from mature neighbourhoods for providing an increased number of yard waste collection dates, however there are no plans to increase the number of collection dates in 2022. Increasing the curbside collection of yard waste (which in the summer is primarily grass clippings) would directly conflict with the zero waste framework that is the basis for Edmonton's 25-year Waste Strategy.

The considerations that have influenced the decision not to make significant changes to yard waste collection are further outlined below.

Lack of Alignment to Waste Strategy Zero Waste Framework

The ultimate goal of the Waste Strategy is to reduce waste. As the first step toward a future with zero waste, the Edmonton Cart Rollout encourages residents to understand that most yard waste is only referred to as "waste" because of longstanding habits and expectations related to aesthetics and convenience. As Edmontonians take actions to reduce the waste that they generate, increasing the collection frequency of yard waste would make it easier to continue to dispose of the single easiest form of waste to reduce, and may cause those who understand the zero waste framework to question the City's commitment to a zero waste future.

Alternatives for Managing and Disposing of Yard Waste

The introduction of spring and fall yard waste collection, the option to top up the food scraps cart, and the opportunity to drop off yard waste for free at Eco Stations and Big Bin Events are together sufficient to meet the yard waste disposal preferences of most Edmontonians.

Residents who wish to dispose of large volumes of yard waste, but are unwilling or unable to store it for seasonal collection or drop it off for free, are encouraged and supported to consider home composting or leaving grass clippings on their lawn as a few of the environmentally friendly solutions to managing yard waste in place.

Resource Constraints

Separated yard waste is collected on Mondays using manual recycling collection trucks and semi-automated collection trucks which are in use for regular recycling and cart collection from Tuesdays through Fridays. Due to the size of the recycling and semi-automated fleet, the City can only service a quarter of the city per Monday with existing resources. Thus one round of yard waste collection for the whole City takes four Mondays.

The City and its current contractors do not have the capacity to collect yard waste from a bigger portion of the City on a single Monday with the existing fleet size.

Alternately, increasing the number of collection days would increase the risk of injury and burnout for staff, all of whom collect separated yard waste exclusively during overtime hours.

Budget and Rate Considerations

Adding additional yard waste collection days was evaluated as part of the original Single Unit Waste Set-Out Business Case that informed the Edmonton Cart Rollout. The business case estimated that increasing from the current four collection days to 15 bi-weekly collections would cost an additional \$79 million for manual collection or an additional \$113 million for cart-based collection, in net present value terms over 30 years, with immediate capital costs for both options (\$11 million and almost \$33 million, respectively). Collection six times per year and eight times per year were not evaluated as both had the same resource and fleet requirement as 15 collections per year.

Absence of Program Data and Abbreviated Adjustment Period

Less than 20 per cent of residents who receive curbside collection (approximately 48,000 homes) have had access to a full year of separate yard waste collection dates. That means that most homes have not yet had time to adjust to the practice of setting out yard waste in the spring and fall: some homes missed one or more 2021 collection dates altogether and others were not aware of advice about storing waste between collection dates or dropping off yard waste for free at Eco Stations and Big Bin Events.

Overall satisfaction with existing yard waste disposal options is expected to improve as residents become more familiar with the new range of disposal options, and more aware of how historical practices for disposing of yard waste compromise the objectives of the Waste Strategy. Assumptions about the overall performance of the program will also be more valid once program data for both seasons is available for all homes in the city.