

SEASONAL TIP

OK, kids, it's time to rake the leaves!



- **Mow and mulch**

If leaves aren't too deep, mowing with a mulching lawn mower blade is a good choice. After you chop them up, it's OK to leave them on the grass. Mulched leaves are good for grass; tell your parents Michigan State University says so.

Deeper leaves in an area can be mulched by going over them a few times. You have to spread the mulch with a rake so it's not too deep though.

- **Use a leaf blower**

It will work very well on smaller lawns. For big yards, carry- or backpack-types are best used for blowing leaves out of flower beds and from around bushes.

- **Or use a leaf and lawn vacuum**

If you're old enough, like to work the leaves and have a big yard, you could get a walk-behind leaf and lawn vacuum. Many leaf catchers can be attached to riding lawn mowers.

- **Or - just rake your leaves.**

Raking is a big job. Be sure to warm-up and stretch before starting. Take shorter rake strokes so you don't reach as far and pull a muscle or tire out too quickly.

- **Other PRECAUTIONS suggested by the pros:**

- wear gloves to prevent blisters
- bend at the knees rather than the waist
- Avoid twisting motions which could injure your back
- take extra care if leaves are wet or slippery
- don't do too much at one time.

To bag leaves, rake the stack onto an old sheet or a tarp, then dump the stack into a leaf bag. Happy raking!



October Project



Build a scarecrow ...

like the one in the Oct '08 BuzzLetter at www.buzzingkidsworld.com as part of your Halloween and Thanksgiving decorations.

You will need:

- 10' stake or piece of bamboo
- Hay, dry leaves, or rags
- Wire, twine, rope and rubber bands
- Old pillowcase
- Marker pens
- Old shirt, trousers, gloves, and hat
- Optional: Buttons, yarn, and glue

* Cut the **10-foot stake or piece of bamboo** into two pieces, one 6-foot piece (shorter if it won't go into the ground) and the other 3 or 4 feet long.

* Place the smaller section across the 6-foot piece about 1 foot down from the top. Secure with **wire or twine**.

* Put a **shirt** on the crosspiece and button it. Later you'll stuff it loosely with **hay, rags, or dry leaves**.

* Secure the stuffed **gloves** to the ends of the arms with a **rubber band**.

* Pull one leg of a **pair of trousers (or overalls)** onto the stake. The other leg hangs freely. (You could bend it at the "knee" to rest on a bale of hay or planter.) Stuff the pants and shirt with hay, dry leaves, or rags.

* Make a head by stuffing a **pillowcase** and using **marker pens** to make the face or **gluing** on **buttons** for the eyes. Make the mouth from **yarn**. Tie the open end of the pillowcase onto the stake with a rope.

* Add a **hat** for more interest. Enjoy!



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ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Halloween

On Halloween, the thing to do,
Is pretend that nothing
can frighten you.

And if somethin' scares you
and you want to run,
Jus' let on like it's jus'
Halloween fun!

~ An early 19th century postcard



Scary walkway

Make the entrance to your house a scary adventure for the Trick or Treaters. Create a walkway of ghosts

You'll need:

Helium balloons
String or cord
White fabric
Magic markers



- Cut fabric into wispy pieces to make a small ghost
- Place fabric over helium balloon. Tie ghost to tree limb or bush
- To make a head tie string or cord under the balloon; or keep fabric loose for a full free floating effect
- Draw faces with magic markers

Light your walkway with tea lights placed in hollowed out pumpkins. You can find free patterns at www.carvingpumpkins.com.