

March 20, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Bill Miller, Division of Air and Waste Management, Solid and Hazardous Waste Section, 302-739-9403 or Melanie Rapp, Public Affairs, 302-739-9902.

Our sites near Bear and Newark are filled to capacity with yard waste from residents, said Robert Underwood, program manager. We are pleased with the tremendous support, but we must close the two sites for a few days to bring in equipment to grind the yard waste into mulch. When the sites reopen, we will offer free mulch to New Castle County residents, while supplies last.

New Castle County residents can pick up free mulch at each location while supplies last. Only loose mulch will be available, and residents should bring their own shovels, containers or bags. Residents will have to load mulch into their own vehicles.

Yard waste makes up a large percentage of the residential waste that goes into landfills. These include plant materials from lawn maintenance and landscaping activities such as grass clippings, leaves, pruning's, brush, shrubs, garden materials, Christmas trees and tree limbs up to four inches in diameter. Keeping yard waste out of landfills by recycling and composting extends the life the landfill and promotes sustainability.

DNREC's three community yard waste demonstration sites were developed as one of many yard waste management options to help New Castle County residents comply with the yard waste ban. Commercial businesses, such as landscaping and lawn care companies, as well as municipalities are not eligible to drop off materials at the sites.

On Jan. 24, 2008 the New Castle County ban on yard waste went into effect, prohibiting all yard waste materials from being disposed or mixed in with other household trash going to the Cherry Island Landfill. New Castle County residents are required to dispose of yard waste through an alternative method; drop it off at one of DNREC's free yard waste drop-off sites; use a mulching mower or compost it; have it hauled away by a private hauler, landscaper, or the Delaware Solid Waste Authority for recycling; or take it to one of the commercial facilities available in New Castle County.

DNREC's Community Yard Waste Demonstration Sites:

Brandywine Hundred Community Yard Waste Demonstration Site

Open every day 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. unless otherwise posted.

The site is located on the north side of Cauffiel Parkway, approximately 100 yards east of the Cauffiel Parkway and Philadelphia Pike (Business Route 13) intersection

DART Mid-County Community Yard Waste Demonstration Site

Hours: Everyday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. unless otherwise posted

The site is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Routes 13 and 72 near Bear. (Turn into the DART facility at 1423 S. DuPont Hwy, Bear, DE).

Polly Drummond Hill Community Yard Waste Demonstration Site

Open every day 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. unless otherwise posted

The site is located in the Pike Creek area on Polly Drummond Hill Road, about a ½ mile north of the Kirkwood Highway.

More information can be found online at

www.dnrec.delaware.gov/yardwaste or by calling 302-739-9403