

Cut and Trash Those Plastic Bands!

By Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

As autumn comes to a close, many people turn to paper lawn bags to recycle yard debris, especially since a ban prevents trash services from collecting plastic bags filled with recyclable yard debris. Those paper bags might be compostable, but the plastic bands holding the packet together are not. Left on the street or other places where they can wash into the environment, the bands contribute to [plastic pollution](#). Even worse is when the bands entangle wildlife—much like what happens with fishing line, six pack soda rings, and other looping plastics. The best way to discard those bands is to cut and place them in the household trash.



Alternatives to disposable yard bags include reusable lawn & leaf bags and bins (ridged or collapsable). Another option is shredding where they fall with a mulching mower and allowing the remnants to enrich the soil through natural decomposition. Leaf litter could be gathered into [compost piles or bins](#), where they make terrific fertilizer. An easy, growing trend is to simply [leave the leaves](#) to slowly and naturally decompose into the soil while providing a good surface mulch and habitat for firefly larvae, mourning cloak butterflies, salamanders, and other cool critters!

* * * * *