



# Return of 'The Claw'

Leaf season in Sacramento brings back curbside collection

BY DEBBIE ARRINGTON



Many Sacramento gardeners welcome the return of The Claw to collect their green waste.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO

piles are picked up. Then they start over again.

November and December produce the majority of leaves: 23,000 tons were picked up by The Claw during those two months last year. That was a wet winter, and rain weighed down the foliage like soaked towels. Those same two months totaled about 18,000 tons in 2017, when dry leaves were much lighter.

Most Sacramento residents should expect seven sweeps down their street by The Claw between Nov. 1 and Jan. 26, Treadwell said.

Residents can get a pickup estimate via the city's leaf season webpage. On the SacRecycle collection calendar link, insert your address and get a target date for your street, within three days. The Claw schedule is updated twice daily.

During light leaf weeks, The Claw crews can complete their citywide schedule in 10 to 12 days. Wet and windy weather can bring down masses of leaves, especially early in November if there hasn't been a major leaf drop. That almost doubles the time estimate for completing a city sweep.

Meanwhile, the city continues to pick up residential green waste containers on a weekly basis. Fill those 96-gallon bins before piling leaves in the street. That helps keep curb space open for parking, the biggest complaint during leaf season.

"If people use their bins first, we can clear the streets faster and there's more parking," Treadwell said.

If a heavy rain is expected, move leaf piles out of the street and onto the lawn, Treadwell suggested. That keeps leaves from clogging storm drains. Keep piles out of gutters and bike lanes, too.

"It only takes four or five well-placed big leaves to clog a drain," she said.

The biggest contaminant of leaf piles? Poop bags. Please put dog waste in the regular garbage, Treadwell said. "Poop bags are not compatible with leaf piles; why would people think that's OK?" □

Debbie Arrington, an award-winning garden writer and lifelong gardener, is co-creator of the Sacramento Digs Gardening blog and website.

## GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Get your business noticed by real estate, home design and gardening-savvy readers in our PLACE section!



**TO ADVERTISE, CALL US**

**AT 916.498.1234**

**SN&R**