AGED BLACK BARK

Check out the new product available through TAGRO, Aged Black Bark. Aged Black Bark is a low-nutrient ground cover similar to traditional beauty bark—except that it’s black. The best uses for Aged Black Bark are as a ground cover and weed barrier or it can be incorporated into soil to increase the amount of organic matter.

If you are looking for a high-nutrient product to give your lawn or garden a boost, try TAGRO Mix or TAGRO Potting Soil.

TAGRO is available for pickup or delivery all year.

TAGRO (Central Treatment Plant), 2201 Portland Ave, Gate 6
Spring hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
(253) 502-2150
www.tagro.com

TAGRO Potting Soil
$30 per cubic yard
$15 per half cubic yard
$5 minimum purchase (approximately four cubic feet)

TAGRO Mix
$10 per cubic yard

Aged Black Bark
$26 per cubic yard

Pickup and delivery
Come and get it. If you have a pickup truck or trailer, you can pick up larger amounts of TAGRO. Or (for an additional fee) we’ll deliver TAGRO products to you. Call for a delivery estimate.

*Product and delivery prices are subject to change

(253) 502-2150
www.tagro.com
Grease spot remover

What you need:

- Cornmeal
- Vacuum

Directions:

1. Pour enough cornmeal on the fabric or upholstery to cover the stain.
2. Let the cornmeal sit for up to 30 minutes.
3. Vacuum cornmeal and repeat the process if necessary.

This recipe works best on newer stains on light-colored fabric or upholstery.

www.cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners

Home & garden

March
9 10:30 a.m. Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting
10 1:30 p.m. Rain Barrels: How to Make & Maintain
16 10:30 a.m. Residential Lighting & Design
23 10:30 a.m. Backyard Chickens: Getting Started
30 10:30 a.m. Planning a Food Garden: Soil & Seeds

April
6 10:30 a.m. Tree Basics: Right Tree for the Right Place
13 10:30 a.m. Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting
13 1:30 p.m. Backyard Chickens: Getting Started
20 10:30 a.m. Solar Power: How It Works & Incentives
21 1:30 p.m. Early Gardens: Prep & Plant
27 10:30 a.m. Enhance Your Habitat with Native Plants

May
4 10:30 a.m. Rain Gardens: DIY Planning & Planting
11 10:30 a.m. Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting
18 10:30 a.m. Drip Irrigation: Residential DIY
19 1:30 p.m. Rain Barrels: How to Make & Maintain

Workshop location: City of Tacoma EnviroHouse (Tacoma Landfill), 3510 S. Mullen St.

Advance registration required:
www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse
email ehhouse@cityoftacoma.org or call (253) 573-2426. Schedule is subject to change.

Gardening

March 16, 10 a.m. – Noon: Starting Your Garden from Seed
April 20, 10 a.m. – Noon: Preparing Your Vegetable Garden Soil
May 18, 10 a.m. – Noon: Planting and Maintaining Your Vegetable Garden

Workshop location: TAGRO Office, located at 2201 Portland Ave., Gate 6, Tacoma.

To register: Leave a message at (253) 798-4133, or sign up online at www.piercecd.org/communitygardens. Schedule is subject to change.

Natural Yard Care and Rain Garden Workshop

(Music, fun and food for the whole family)

May 4, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Workshop location: Wapato Lake Pavilion, 6500 S. Sheridan Ave.

Advance registration required:
www.hhhhworkshops.eventzilla.net
More information: Christina Zinkgraf, czinkgraf@cityoftacoma.org, (253) 324-6210
Tis the season to make a list and check it twice. Yep, that’s right, spring fever will likely take you into your garage for chemicals to care for your car or yard. Take inventory of the hazardous items in your garage (those labeled caution, warning, danger, etc.) by creating a checklist of chemicals. Here’s an example to get you started.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expired</td>
<td>Damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antifreeze</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto batteries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilizer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engine cleaner/degreaser</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gasoline/diesel/kerosene</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lubricants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor oil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paints/stains/varsishes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pool chemicals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solvents/thinner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weed killer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windshield washer fluid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Properly dispose of household chemicals at the City’s Household Hazardous Waste Facility, located at the Tacoma Landfill (3510 S. Mullen St.). When possible, use non-toxic alternatives.

(253) 591-5418
www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste

Make a difference with a Make a Splash grant

Get up to $4,000 from Surface Water Management for projects that help keep our local waterways pollution-free.

Make a Splash grants fund projects that address stormwater pollution prevention or protection and restoration of our local lakes, streams, rivers and Puget Sound. Projects that tie in with the Puget Sound Starts Here campaign (www.pugetsoundstartshere.org) are encouraged.

Past projects have included videos, multilingual outreach efforts, classroom experiences, and monitoring and stewardship projects.

Applications and details are on the City’s website. Deadline is May 20, 2013.

(253) 502-2126
www.cityoftacoma.org/makeasplash

For the latest information on rates for solid waste, surface water and wastewater services, visit the City’s website at www.cityoftacoma.org/estates.
What’s going green? **Downtown Tacoma**

Downtown Tacoma is getting a facelift! At the beginning of the year, construction on the Pacific Avenue Streetscape began. Among the upgrades to the streets, sidewalks and lighting are innovative stormwater improvements. These improvements include 14 rain gardens and new landscaping with 129 trees, 817 shrubs and more than 3,000 new plants.

So what does that mean for surface water pollution? A lot! When it rains, water runs through the streets of downtown picking up pollution and then goes into a storm drain where it flows directly into the Thea Foss Waterway untreated. With the new rain gardens and landscaping, a lot of the stormwater runoff will be captured, filtered and then will flow into the Thea Foss Waterway much cleaner.

**www.cityoftacoma.org/pacave**

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**Surface water pollution is a big problem, but here are a few things you can do to help:**

- Pick up pet waste and place it in the garbage.
- Dispose of litter and cigarette butts in the garbage.
- Detect vehicle leaks and get them fixed in a timely manner.
- Practice natural yard care, reducing the number of chemicals on your lawn that can get washed down the storm drain.

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**DON’T FREAK, we’re going every other week**

Every-other-week garbage collection begins March 11 for about 5,700 households in a portion of North Tacoma.

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**When is it coming to your neighborhood?**

Where you live in Tacoma will determine when your collection will change. Here’s a general timeline — subject to change — for when and where Solid Waste Management plans to implement the switch to every-other-week garbage collection. You’ll receive advance notice by mail and phone before your service changes.

- **Monday garbage customers:** March/April
- **Tuesday garbage customers:** June/July
- **Wednesday garbage customers:** August/September
- **Thursday garbage customers:** October/November
- **Friday garbage customers:** April/May

**www.TacomaRecycles.org/everyotherweek**
### Leak detection is pollution prevention

Vehicles are one of the biggest contributors to stormwater pollution that ends up in our local lakes, streams and Puget Sound. Motor oil, brake dust, tire wear, tailpipe emissions and car wash residue — it all adds up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Help reduce water pollution:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☑ Regularly maintain your vehicle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ Be on the lookout for leaks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ If you spot drips coming from your vehicle, use cardboard to catch the drips until you can get them fixed. (Make sure to dispose of stained cardboard in the trash, not the recycling!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ Carpool or take public transit when possible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Food waste recycling

Has your yard/food waste container been hibernating? Spring is the perfect time to start recycling your food scraps when you can mix them with yard waste in your big, brown container. Here’s what’s accepted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Yes</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Fruit and vegetables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Breads, grains, pasta, cereal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Leftovers/ kitchen scraps (including coffee grounds/ filters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Meat, poultry, seafood (including bones and shells)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dairy and eggs (including shells)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>No</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Plastic, glass, metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Liquids, grease, oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cardboard, pizza boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Plastic or compostable bags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Paper (OK to line container with newspaper)</td>
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</table>

### Garden markers

Make your own garden markers using flat rocks and some paint.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>What you need:</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☑ Rocks with a flat surface for decorating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ Acrylic paint</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Directions:</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. If your rocks are too dark for the paint to show, apply a coat of white paint and let dry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Decorate each rock with a picture of an item you wish to label in your garden and let dry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Place your markers (rocks) in your garden where these items will be growing.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Solid Waste Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Information line</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>591-5543</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Solid Waste Management (garbage, recycling, yard/food waste)</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>591-5543</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Information line (recorded message)</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>565-5955</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Call-2-Haul</strong></th>
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<td>573-2468</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>EnviroHouse</strong></th>
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<td>573-2426</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Hazardous waste</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>591-5418</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Landfill scalehouse</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>593-7724</td>
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### Surface Water Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>General Surface Water and Wastewater questions</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>591-5588</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Billing questions</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>502-2100</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sewer backups &amp; Street flooding</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>591-5585</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Street sweeping</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>591-5585</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Leaf disposal</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/leaves">www.cityoftacoma.org/leaves</a></td>
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<th><strong>TAGRO</strong></th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Environmental Services (solid waste, surface water, wastewater)</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices">www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices</a></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Email listserv</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Twitter</strong></th>
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<td><a href="http://www.twitter.com/EnviroTalk">www.twitter.com/EnviroTalk</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.twitter.com/CityOfTacoma">www.twitter.com/CityOfTacoma</a></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Facebook</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/cityoftacoma">www.facebook.com/cityoftacoma</a></td>
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</table>

When calling any of the utilities, please have your account number available. It is the first thing you will be asked and allows us to quickly access your information. Your account number is located at the top of your utility bill.
Carpool or take public transit
If you spot drips coming from
Be on the lookout for leaks.
Regularly maintain your vehicle.
Help reduce water pollution:
it all adds up.

Leak detection is

Paper (Ok to line container with
• Cardboard, pizza boxes
• liquids, grease, oil
No
• Dairy and eggs (including shells)
• Meat, poultry, seafood (including
• leftovers/kitchen scraps
• Breads, grains, pasta, cereal
accepted:
big, brown container. Here's what's
mix them with yard waste in your
your food scraps when you can

Has your yard/food waste

New: Aged Black Bark .............page 1
Free workshops............ page 2
Hazardous waste checklist .............. page 3
Every-other-week garbage collection.... page 4
Food waste recycling.............. page 5

We want to hear from you:
EnviroTalk@ci tyoftacoma.org
www.twitter.com/EnviroTalk
(253) 591-5051

When calling any of the utilities, please have your account number available. It is
Facebook www.facebook.com/cityoftacoma
Twitter www.twitter.com/EnviroTalk
Email listserv www.cityoftacoma.org/environews

Solid Waste Management 59 1-5543

Billing questions 502-2150
General Surface Water and 59 1-5588 www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater
Sewer backups &
Street sweeping 59 1-5585 www.cityoftacoma.org/streetsweeping

EnviroHouse 573-2426 www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse

When possible.
get them fixed. (Make sure to
your vehicle, use cardboard

Rocks with a flat surface for decorating
Make your own garden markers

2. Decorate each rock with a picture of an item you wish to label in
your garden and let dry.

3. Every-other-week garbage __________ begins March 11
for about 5,700 households in a portion of North Tacoma.

4. Take inventory of the ________ items in your garage (those
labeled caution, warning, danger, etc.) by creating a checklist of
chemicals.

5. When it rains, water runs through the streets of downtown
picking up pollution and then goes into a storm drain where
it flows directly into the Thea Foss Waterway __________.

6. Aged Black Bark is a low-nutrient ______ cover similar to
traditional beauty bark – except that it’s black.

7. Don’t freak, we’re going every other _______.

What’s that WORD?

Complete the sentences below (answers found by reading this issue of EnviroTalk) and then find the word or phrase in the
word search below. If you get stumped, the answers are at the bottom. A key to this word search will be featured in the
next issue of EnviroTalk.

1. Vehicles are one of the biggest contributors to stormwater
________, that ends up in our local lakes, streams and
Puget Sound.

2. Spring is the perfect time to start recycling your ________
scraps when you can mix them with yard waste in your big,
brown container.

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F J H V B N M K K O L O C X S W
L K J N V F G Y H U J I K C Z F
H A Z A R D O U S L R G H J N B
J K L G B V F G V D T E W D H P
L O I J B N C V F D R E X U C B
P L G B N P O L L U T I O N D F
W E R R T V L G H H K L P T O B
B J O Z S F L J F H Y T U R I O
P O U U T Y E F O C V G H E Z S
U J N K N B C Y O C F G H A I T
R E D C V Y T U D N J H V T E R
K I H B N C I R A Y U I O E N K
N M K L V G O Y G U P N K D L X
Q W D F G T N U E Y V C H J D S
P O L Y H G V B J K Y G H F D X
U J K M N D F R E Y Q W E E K C F

New: Aged Black Bark
Free workshops
Hazardous waste checklist
Every-other-week garbage collection
Food waste recycling

S F E R A R M I R A D S L H
E N D K U C F Z K T S P
G C C L Y K P S M E F N T
L W S V E F B N S A C Y
J I F A T J E V S I A F J
M I N I M O N N A C M S M
O L S A S O D X T A S I
U E F S J I T E F T U K E
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G H G C S A T O N M P
S J I T U K E J E V S I A F
A S T D Y R T L H E N
I S T D Y R T L H E N
J E V S I A F J
C N A T T M P S T D Y R
T L H E N N A T T M P