Guidance on Management of Invasive Species in Yard Waste

The purpose of this Solid Waste Advisory is to provide guidance on how to manage the collection and disposal of yard waste that contains diseased plants, invasive species, and/or noxious plants such as thistles or poison ivy.

**Background**

As a general rule, yard waste must be collected separately from refuse and other recyclables. Typically, this waste is processed into a number of useful landscaping products, including compost and mulch. However, the various processes currently used to manage yard waste cannot provide a 100% assurance that any diseased or noxious plants and invasive species will be destroyed.

**Management of Invasive Species, Diseased, and Noxious Plants**

Residents, businesses, and institutions wishing to control invasive species and diseased or noxious plants to the highest degree possible can place the unwanted plant material in black plastic bags and set them out for collection as refuse. These bags should be placed at the curb either inside a refuse container or nearby. To avoid confusion, the bags of diseased or invasive material should not be placed alongside yard waste set out for recycling. Customers should also contact their waste collector in advance of the scheduled collection day, to notify the collector that yard waste has been set out for disposal, particularly where crews may otherwise be exposed to noxious species such as poison ivy and other plants that promote strong allergic reactions.

Collection crews are not required to determine the intent of their customers when encountering yard waste set out in black plastic bags or in the trash container. Such materials will be disposed, thus better assuring destruction of the undesirable plants.

Haulers are advised to include the information provided in this Solid Waste Advisory in their annual Statements of Service to customers.