

**Yard Waste Management Committee  
Marketing Subcommittee Report  
28 September 2005**

**This subcommittee's task is to determine:**

- 1. Whether the proposed yard waste ban will result in a positive business climate for marketing mulch and compost derived from collecting & processing of woody materials, leaves & grass?**
- 2. What considerations might be taken into account to successfully market these products?**

**Much of the large woody waste (stumps, limbs, etc.) in Delaware is being processed. A yard waste ban will not adversely impact this market because of the growing demand for finished mulch products. One might predict price adjustments due to the sudden increase in feedstock; tip-fee income should mitigate the impact. Carbon based bulking agents will also be in demand for composting leaves & grass.**

**The demand for commercial grade compost is growing throughout the state. The addition of yard waste sourced materials may cause some disruption in the marketplace, depending on the amount of material and what entities are producing the product. For example, a municipality which produces a composted yard waste product will likely undersell a commercial operation. At the same time, in our neighboring states, yard waste compost supplies almost never meet the growing demand.**

**In any case, it is the feeling of the subcommittee members that, due to the complexity involved in producing a quality composted product, the length of time in the process and capital costs (land and equipment acquisition), that some form of subsidy or financial assistance will be required.**

**Overall, the yard waste ban, properly implemented and supported, will be a benefit to business and consumers who are concerned with the state of the environment from their back yard to the DSWA landfills.**