



Rosendo Holguin piles leaves with a blower between the IC, AC and PE buildings. The leaves will be gathered later by a machine nicknamed "The Lady Bug" by the grounds employees.

Nature leaves a mess

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Preparation for the fall begins well before the first leaf reaches the ground. "The entire grounds crew works on leaf removal and mowing. We are still mowing grass due to the warmer temperatures this fall," said Valerie Mechelle, buildings and grounds supervisor.

Although raking leaves and preparing for spring may not seem complicated, vari-

ous types of leaf blowers, lawnmowers and vacuums are dispatched to cover about 286 acres. Every day crews of one or two men are sent to specific areas and they pick up the leaves that fell over night.

The college has a range of 60 deciduous trees and four evergreens. With this much foliage, leaf removal usually ends by the first week of December.



Above: Miguel Avila drives a lawnmower with a mulching blade. Mulching allows the grass to become fertilized for the following spring.

Left: Angel Jimenez rakes leaves into a pile in order to have them picked up by a machine nicknamed "The Lady Bug".