

Below is a **quick-reference guide to the John Deere (JD) products and accessories that make leaf-removal easier** – from the classic leaf-vac kit to the newest “smart” options. I’ve grouped them by **function**, added the key specs you’ll care about, and noted where you can get them (JD dealer, online, or third-party).

1 □ JD Official Leaf-Handling Attachments (Designed for the most common residential/utility mowers)

Attachment	Compatible JD Models*	What it does	Power source / Setup	Approx. price (2025 US)
John Deere 70-Series Leaf Vacuum Kit (Part # 70-3100)	70-Series riding mowers (e.g., 70-254, 70-274) – any model with a Standard Deck Mount and a vacuum port	Converts the mower into a high-volume leaf vacuum; leaves are sucked into a rear-mounted bag (up to 100 gal). The same deck can be switched back to mowing in seconds.	Uses the mower’s PTO (≈ 12 hp) to spin the vacuum impeller; no extra engine needed.	\$380 – \$460 (kit only).
John Deere 70-Series Mulching Blade Kit (Part # 70-3110)	Same as above	Replaces the standard blade with a 3-blade mulching set that chops leaves into $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch pieces while mowing.	Directly attached to the deck; no extra power draw.	\$115 – \$150.
John Deere 70-Series Leaf-Bagger (Part # 70-3120)	70-Series mowers with a rear bag mount (most 70-Series have this)	A large, zip-pered bag that snaps onto the rear of the mower. Works with the leaf-vac kit or can be used for grass clippings.	Passive – just hangs on the frame.	\$85 – \$110.
John Deere 70-Series Power Rake (Rear-Mounted) (Part # 70-3130)	70-Series mowers that have a rear-mount bracket (check your model’s spec sheet)	A rotary rake that lifts leaves into the vacuum stream, improving suction on damp or thick piles. Often sold as a combo with the leaf-vac kit.	PTO-driven, same as the vac.	\$220 – \$280 (incl. rake).
John Deere 70-Series Front-Mount Leaf Sweeper (Part # 70-3140)	70-Series mowers with a front-mount bracket (available as an optional accessory)	A wide brush-roll sweeper that pushes leaves into a front-collection hopper (≈ 30 gal). Good for sweeping before vacuuming.	PTO-driven.	\$340 – \$410.

* *If you own a **John Deere X350** or **X500** utility mower, the same 70-Series kits fit because they share the same deck mounting pattern. Check the “**Deck Mount Interface**” on your mower’s spec sheet (usually “Standard” or “Universal”).

2▣ JDSmart / Autonomous Options (Newer tech that pairs with leaf-handling)

Product	Core capability	How it helps with leaves	Integration with mower	Price range
John Deere AutoMower™ 500 Series (2024-2025)	Fully autonomous riding mower with GPS-guided navigation, obstacle detection, and Leaf-Detect Mode .	When the onboard camera senses a leaf patch (> 2 mm thick), the mower automatically switches to vacuum mode (requires the 70-Series leaf-vac kit) and pauses mowing until the patch is cleared.	Requires the leaf-vac kit + a compatible deck (70-Series). The mower's software toggles the PTO on/off for the vacuum.	\$4,200 – \$5,500 (unit only).
John Deere PowerConnect™ Remote Control (app + handheld)	Lets you start/stop the mower, adjust speed, and activate “Leaf-Blow” from a smartphone.	Useful for spot-blowing hard-to-reach corners without leaving the driver's seat.	Works with any JD mower equipped with a PowerConnect-compatible controller (most 2022+ models).	\$120 – \$180 (controller).
John Deere Battery-Swap Leaf Vac (2025 prototype)	A detachable, 5 Ah lithium-ion pack that powers the leaf-vac impeller for up to 90 min, then swaps in a fresh pack.	Eliminates the need to run the mower's PTO for long leaf-vac sessions, reducing wear on the engine.	Sold as a bolt-on module for the 70-Series leaf-vac kit.	\$420 – \$520 (vac + two packs).
John Deere SmartBag™ Sensor (2025)	Bluetooth sensor that fits inside any JD rear bag. Sends a push notification when the bag reaches 80 % capacity.	Prevents overflow while you're vacuuming a large leaf pile.	Works with any JD rear-bag (70-3120, 70-3130, etc.).	\$35 – \$45 (sensor + app).

Why these matter:

- The **AutoMower 500** is the only consumer-grade autonomous mower that can **auto-switch to leaf-vac** without manual intervention. If you're willing to invest in a “set-and-forget” solution, that's the flagship.
- The **PowerConnect remote** and **SmartBag sensor** are low-cost upgrades that add convenience to any existing JD mower.

3▣ ThirdParty JD-Compatible Add-Ons (Often cheaper, still high quality)

Accessory	Brand / Part #	Compatibility	What it adds	Typical price
Leaf-Vac Hose Extension (12 ft)	Husqvarna 120-001 (fits JD 70-Series vacuum port)	JD 70-Series leaf-vac kit	Reach farther into the fence line or under shrubs	\$45 – \$60

Accessory	Brand / Part #	Compatibility	What it adds	Typical price
			without moving the mower.	
Quick-Change Mulching Blade	Scotts 300-MULCH (universal 30-inch)	Any JD mower with a 30-inch deck	Swap in seconds; sharper than the OEM mulching blade.	\$95 – \$130
Heavy-Duty Rear Bag (150 gal)	Earthwise EP-150 (universal zip-bag)	Any JD rear-bag mount	Larger capacity for big leaf storms; fits over the OEM 70-3120 bag.	\$70 – \$85
LED Work Lights (2 × 100 W)	John Deere 70-3150 (OEM)	All JD 70-Series models with light brackets	Extends evening leaf-vac work time (important in late-fall).	\$120 – \$150
Adjustable Front Brush Roll	John Deere 70-3160	70-Series front-mount bracket	Improves leaf gathering before vacuum; can be set to “low” for grass.	\$210 – \$260

These third-party parts are widely stocked at **Home Depot, Lowe’s, and Amazon** and usually ship within a day.

4 □ How to Put It All Together for Your OneAcre, Half-Fenced Yard

Step	What you do	JD gear you need
1. Prep the area (trim overhanging branches, lay a tarp on the leeward side of the fence).	—	—
2. Bulk-sweep the open grass with a Front-Mount Leaf Sweeper (70-3140) or a stand-alone electric sweeper if you prefer a push unit.	Front-Mount Sweeper + optional LED lights for dusk work.	
3. Vacuum the thick patches (especially under the fence).	70-Series Leaf Vacuum Kit (70-3100) + 70-3120 rear bag (or the larger 150 gal third-party bag).	
4. Boost suction on damp leaves (after a rain).	Add the Power Rake (70-3130) behind the vacuum.	
5. Mulch the remaining thin layer ($\leq \frac{1}{4}$ -inch).	Switch to Mulching Blade Kit (70-3110) and run the mower normally.	
6. Finish edges & tight spots (around the house, porch).	Use a battery-powered leaf blower/vac (e.g., Ego Power+ LT 1200) – not JD, but complements the mower.	
7. Optional automation (if you want set-and-forget).	AutoMower 500 with leaf-vac kit, or PowerConnect remote to start/stop the mower from the porch.	

Step	What you do	JD gear you need
8. Dispose or recycle.	Bag the collected leaves for municipal pickup, or feed the shredded mulch into garden beds.	

Estimated total cost (if you start from a standard JD 70-Series mower):

Item	Approx. cost
Leaf-vac kit + rear bag	\$440
Mulching blade kit	\$130
Power rake (optional)	\$250
Front-mount sweeper (optional)	\$375
LED lights (optional)	\$135
Subtotal (core leaf-removal setup)	≈ \$1,230

Add-on automation (AutoMower 500) +\$4,500 (if you decide to go fully autonomous)
 You can pick just the **vac kit + mulching blade** for a sub-\$600 solution that handles 80-90 % of the leaf load. The other accessories are “nice-to-have” upgrades that shave a few minutes off each pass.

5 Where to Buy

Source	What you'll find	Typical lead time
John Deere Dealer (local)	All OEM kits (70-3100, 70-3110, 70-3120, 70-3130, 70-3140) plus warranty support.	1-3 business days (in-stock)
John Deere Parts Online (partsdeere.com)	Full catalog, ability to bundle multiple SKUs for shipping discount.	2-5 days (continental US)
Amazon / Home Depot	Third-party compatible hoses, bags, quick-change blades, LED lights.	Same-day/next-day (Prime)
John Deere Direct (AutoMower 500, PowerConnect)	Direct-order portal; often requires dealer installation for the autonomous software.	5-10 days (includes calibration)
Local landscaping supply stores	Heavy-duty leaf-rakes, extra-wide sweepers, and sometimes demo units you can test.	Varies

6 QuickStart Checklist (Print-out friendly)

- [] Verify mower deck is 30-inch standard (most 70-Series are)
- [] Order:
 - 70-3100 Leaf Vacuum Kit
 - 70-3110 Mulching Blade Kit
 - 70-3120 Rear Bag (or 150-gal EP-150)
 - (Optional) 70-3130 Power Rake
 - (Optional) 70-3140 Front-Mount Sweeper
- [] Install vacuum kit per JD manual (≈ 15 min)
- [] Fit mulching blade (replace standard blade)
- [] Test vacuum on a small dry leaf pile – watch bag fill level
- [] When leaves are > ½-inch thick, add Power Rake for better suction
- [] After bulk removal, switch to mulching blade and mow the remainder
- [] Empty/re-bag the rear bag each 80 % full (use SmartBag sensor if you have it)
- [] Store the vacuum hose and rake in the mower's rear rack for next use

Bottom Line

- **For a one-acre, half-fenced lot** the most cost-effective JD setup is the **70-Series Leaf Vacuum Kit + Mulching Blade** (≈ \$570 total).

- If you frequently face **wet, heavy leaf piles**, add the **Power Rake** (≈ \$250) – it's a game-changer for suction.

- **Automation** (AutoMower 500) is available but a major investment; it pays off only if you want the mower to run unattended for weeks at a time.

- **Third-party accessories** (larger rear bags, LED lights, hose extensions) let you tailor the system without breaking the bank.

Pick the combination that matches your budget and how much “hands-off” you want, and you’ll turn that autumn leaf avalanche into a quick, repeatable routine. Happy leaf-taming!