

Grass Clippings: Nature's Fertilizer

Grass clippings should never go to a landfill site for disposal. Try "grasscycling" and leave your clippings on the lawn where they fall. Grasscycling saves you time, reduces waste and leads to a deeper, healthier root system that increases your lawn's resistance to disease, drought and insects. Just watch your lawn flourish!

Grasscycling Works!

1. When grass clippings are allowed to decay naturally on the lawn, they release valuable nutrients, add water-saving mulch, and encourage earthworms to aerate your soil naturally.
2. A study found that 147 homeowners who stopped bagging their clippings saved an average of 35 minutes per mowing. That equals about seven hours per season - or an entire day at the beach!
3. You don't need a special lawn mower to grasscycle. But for best results, keep the mower blades sharp and mow your lawn only when the grass is dry.
4. Grass clippings are a free, high-nitrogen fertilizer. When clippings decompose, they release nutrients back to the lawn including nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous. And this process happens rapidly and without creating pollution runoff or damaging soil organisms or wildlife.
5. Leaving your grass clippings on your lawn is a responsible environmental practice. The best part is it takes less time and energy than bagging and dragging grass to the curb!

Grasscycling Is Easy!

- Mow when the grass is dry.
- Use any kind of mower, but make sure it has a sharp blade.
- Mow regularly. The ideal height for grass is 5 - 7.5 cm (2-3 inches).
- Don't cut more than one third of the grass blade.
- If the grass is long, cut off short amounts in several mowings rather than all at once.
- Prevent excessive growth by watering and fertilizing in moderation.
- Never mow during a drought.
- Cutting too short and not often enough are common errors of lawn care.
- In small amounts, grass clippings are a valuable addition to your backyard composter.



Myths About Grasscycling

Myth #1 Grass clippings cause thatch.

Fact Clippings and thatch are simply not connected. Thatch results from the abnormally fast growth of roots and other plant tissues and is caused by improper fertilizing and watering. Grass clippings left on the lawn decay quickly and release valuable nutrients back to establish grass.

Myth #2 Grass clippings are messy!

Fact Grass clippings decay quickly and disappear within a day or two. If you're worried about people tracking grass into your home or pool, try mowing late in the day so that clippings have time to dry and settle overnight.

Myth #3 Grass clippings damage lawns.

Fact Mowing regularly and keeping grass to its ideal height of 5 - 7.5 cm (2-3 inches) improves your lawn. If you allow the grass to grow too long between cuttings, the thick patches of mowed clippings will suffocate your lawn in those areas. This problem can be minimized by gradually reducing your lawn to its proper height over a period of two to three mowings, rather than scalping it back to that height in one mowing.

Myth #4 Grass clippings spread disease!

Fact The spores that cause grass disease are present whether clippings are collected or not. Watering properly, only when needed (one inch of water every five to six days, in the early morning), and keeping your mower blade very sharp for clean cutting will help your lawn resist disease.

