

Grasscycling



Grasscycling improves lawn quality when grass clippings are allowed to decay naturally on the lawn, they release valuable nutrients, add water-saving mulch and encourage natural soil aeration by earthworms. For those concerned about our landfills, grass cycling cuts down on the volume of material making that trip.

When done properly, clippings quickly decompose and return the nutrients to the soil naturally. Not only does it make caring for your lawn easier, but it can also reduce your mowing time by 50% because you don't have to pick up afterwards. Leaving clippings on the lawn also slows water loss through evaporation and reduces the needs for fertilization. To grass-cycle properly, cut the grass when it's dry and always keeps your mower blades sharp.

Here are a few more tips to help maximize the advantages of grass cycling clippings on the lawn:

- Mow when the lawn is dry.
- Use a sharp mower blade. A dull mower blade bruises and tears the grass plant, resulting in a ragged, tarnished appearance at the leaf tip.
- Water thoroughly when needed. During the driest period of summer, lawns require at least one inch of water every five to six days.

Use for Clippings:

- **Compost.** Fresh clippings should comprise no more than 1/3 of the compost pile. They are an excellent source of nitrogen. Mix thoroughly with 'brown' material such as leaves or straw and turn pile regularly to aerate it and prevent odors.
- **Mulch.** Pile about 1" of dried clippings on the soil to reduce weeds and moderate soil temperature. Mulching also controls erosion, run-off and evaporation. If using herbicides, wait at least two mowings after treating the lawn to use the clippings.
- **Soil Additive.** Mixing fresh grass clippings into the garden improves soil texture, promotes moisture retention and adds nutrients and organic matter. About once a month, turn 2" layer of grass into soil to a depth of 6".

Grasscycling is a simple, easy opportunity for every homeowner to do something good for the environment. Grasscycling is a responsible environmental practice and an opportunity for all homeowners to reduce their waste. And the best part is, it takes less time and energy than bagging and dragging that grass to the curb.

