

GRASSCYCLING

Mow it, bag it, haul it, throw it out. Taking care of the lawn has included those four steps for as long as most people can remember. But there's no need for all this hassle. Why not Grasscycle? Grasscycling means no more than just mowing and letting it lay. It's easier, better for the lawn and the best way to recycle yard waste. Grasscycling is a way to save you time and money while improving your lawn at the same time! A win-win situation any way you look at it.



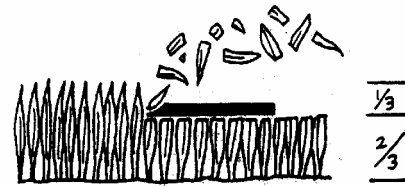
You don't need a special mulching mower to grasscycle, but you do need to follow some simple rules. Observe these easy instructions and you can recycle your grass clippings, fertilize your lawn, and save money.

HERE'S HOW:

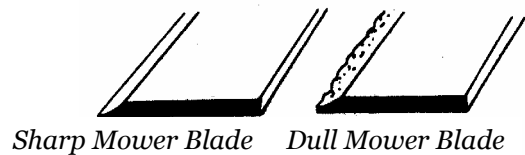
Mowing height and frequency are key to Grasscycling!

Cutting grass too short weakens it, makes it more susceptible to disease, and increases the chance for weed growth. You should never remove more than one-third of the blade surface at any one mowing. Removing more slows root growth and prevents clippings from settling to the soil. For example, if the mowing height (grass length after cutting) is two inches, the lawn should be cut when it reaches three inches.

Raise the mowing height about a half an inch in the summer. This reduces heat stress on the grass by providing shade to the lower portion of the plant. A higher mowing height increases the number and depth of roots, making the lawn healthier. Plenty of deep roots give your grass the capability to accumulate soil, water, and nutrients.



Don't cut off more than one-third of the grass.

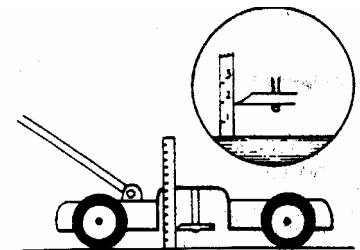


Sharp blades cut cleaner, quicker, and require less energy.

WHEN TO MOW (TO REMOVE ONE-THIRD)

RECOMMENDED MOWING HEIGHTS FOR KANSAS LAWNS

	Your mowing height	Mow when grass is this tall
Bermudagrass	1-2 inches	1 inch
Zoysiagrass	1-3 inches	1 1/2 inches
Buffalograss	1 1/2-3 inches	2 inches
Ryegrass	2-3 inches	2 1/2 inches
Bluegrass	2-3 inches	3 inches
Tall Fescue	3-3 1/2 inches	3 1/2 inches



Check the cutting height on a sidewalk or driveway.



832-3030

Rule of Thumb: Grasscycling can replace one fertilizing application per year.

Mulching mowers are not necessary, but...

Any mower can be used to return grass clippings to the lawn. However, if you are thinking about purchasing a new mower, consider a push or mulching mower. Today's manual push mowers are quite easy to use and conserve oil, reduce air pollution, and make less noise. Push mowers are great for grasscycling and provide healthy exercise. Mulching mowers are designed to recut grass clippings underneath the mower housing. This cuts the grass into smaller pieces, allowing them to sift down into the lawn more quickly. The finely cut clippings return more nutrients to the soil resulting in

better grass color. Mulching mowers can also be used in the fall to shred leaves. No bagging needed!

Thatch? Not a problem

Many people mistakenly believe that grasscycling will create unsightly thatch on the lawn. Not so. Thatch is a spongy layer of stems and root material that decomposes slowly. Grass clippings, on the other hand, are 85 to 90% water and decompose rapidly. So remember, grass clippings do not contribute significantly to thatch accumulation on lawns. In fact, grass clippings will provide valuable nutrients as they decompose into the soil - if you mow regularly at the proper mowing height.



Questions and Answers:

Q: If I grasscycle, will I have to spend more time working on my lawn?

A: Probably not. You may have to mow your lawn more frequently, but studies have shown that grasscycling can actually reduce the amount of time spent on lawn care overall. How? No raking or struggling with the grasscatcher! Plus, grasscycling can reduce the need for fertilizing by at least 25%. Some people who grasscycle don't use commercial fertilizer at all.

Q: Does grasscycling help the community?

A: By handling your yard waste at home, you help your community by reducing the costs the public must pay to collect and process these materials.

For complete Lawn Care information, request these accompanying fact sheets from the office of Waste Reduction and Recycling or obtain them from our website, www.LawrenceRecycles.org: The Rookie's Guide to Fertilizing, Our Garden, Low Maintenance Landscaping, Xeriscaping, Backyard Composting, Vermicomposting (Digger Downunder), and Worm Composting Bins Made Easy.

Sections of this fact sheet were reproduced with permission from Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services Solid Waste Management District 1632 Central Parkway Cincinnati, OH 45210, other portions taken from the Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service Horticulture Report and the King County Grasscycling brochure.

Q: I missed mowing my lawn at the proper height and would like to rake/bag my clippings this time. What should I do with them?

A: You could add the clippings to your compost pile. If the clippings smell, stir them deeper into your "browns" (carbon-rich items like leaves or wood parts). Or, in Lawrence you may set your yard waste out for Monday pickup March-December and we will compost it. (Please set out in a reusable trash can or cart, or use compostable bags.)

Q: My grass clippings are just clumping up instead of sifting into the lawn.

A: Mow the lawn when it is less moist and consider sharpening your blade. You can also wait until the clippings dry and then run over them again with the mower.