

Grasscycling **MOW & GO** To a beautiful lawn

How much time do you spend each week cutting your grass, stopping every few turns to remove the grass catcher, shaking the clippings into your Green Cart, and then reattaching the grass catcher? Or do you finish cutting and rake the grass into piles, which you then put into your Green Cart?

In the summer up to 35 percent of yard material collected at the curb is grass, unnecessarily increasing collection and processing costs.

What is Grasscycling?

Grasscycling is the natural recycling of grass by leaving clippings on the lawn when mowing. Grass clippings will quickly decompose, returning valuable nutrients to the soil. Grasscycling saves time, reduces waste and leads to a deeper, healthier root system that increases your lawn's resistance to disease, drought and insects

Why Grasscycle?

Grasscycling is good for you, good for your lawn and good for the environment!

- Reduce yard waste by 20-40% or more.
- Save time, energy and expense of bagging or putting yard waste into your cart.
- Save gas and energy required to transport and process grass clippings.
- Reduce the need for fertilizer by one-third.
- Reduce the demand for watering.
- Reduce negative impact on water quality from erosion and pesticide application.
- Provide moisture and nutrients to the soil and cushioning layers to reduce wear.
- GRASSCYCLING DOES NOT CAUSE THATCH.

How to Grasscycle..

- **Mow High and Often**

Set your mower height to 5-6 centimetres (2 inches). At this height, there is less shock to the grass plant, deeper roots are produced, moisture is conserved and weeds cannot easily take root when the soil surface is shaded.

Even though mowing at 5-6 centimetres requires mowing slightly more often, research shows that most homeowners still reduce mowing time by about one third.

- **Mow Late in the Day**

The grass clippings will dry and settle overnight leaving little or no mess the next day. The clippings will disappear in a few days.

- **Keep Your Mower Blade Sharp**

Sharp mower blades aid in the mulching of your grass allowing for a more rapid breakdown of the clippings. Dull mowers tear the grass blade, injure the plant and cause ragged brown edges on the top of the grass, inviting disease.

- **Mow When the Grass Is Dry**

Wet clippings may lie on top of the grass; dry clippings settle between the grass blades more readily, giving a clean, neat appearance to your lawn and minimizing tracking clippings into the house.

- **Mow Over Clumps of Grass**

If your lawn is really overgrown, or if you take off more than a third of the height of the blade, it may result in excessive clippings. To eliminate the clumps of grass, simply run over the clippings a second time, or rake them up and deposit them into your Green Cart.

- **Any Mower Can Do the Job**

If you plan to buy a new mower, consider purchasing a mulching mower. Mulching mowers are designed to shred and scatter clippings so they fall between the grass plants.

Grasscycling Myths:

Myth #1: Leaving the grass clippings on the lawn causes thatch

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 the established grass.

Myth #2: Grasscycling is messy

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

Myth #3: Grass clippings damage lawns

Mowing regularly and at the proper height 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. Gradually reducing your lawn to its proper height over a period of 2 or 3 mowings, rather than scalping it back to that height in one mowing can minimize this problem. A good rule of thumb is never removing more than one-third of the leaf surface at one time.

Myth #4: Grasscycling spreads diseases

The spores that cause grass diseases are present whether clippings are collected or not. Watering properly, only when needed, and keeping your mower blade very sharp for clean cutting will help your lawn resist disease.

How to Keep Your Lawn Healthy Using Less Water

- Do not over water your lawn. A lawn requires only 1.25 cm (1/2 inch) of water, twice a week to stay healthy. This amounts to two watering sessions of a half hour each. This will encourage deep root growth and help prevent disease and stress injury to your lawn.
- Water in the morning, between 6am and 10am to avoid losing up to 60 percent of the water to evaporation.
- Avoid watering at night. A damp lawn after dark is more prone to disease.
- Grass clippings are 80 percent water. Leaving clippings on the lawn will prevent excessive moisture loss and return water to the soil.