

GRASSCYCLING

Grasscycling or mulch-mowing, means leaving the clippings on your lawn to feed the soil. Grasscycling saves time and is good for your lawn. No more collecting, bagging and disposing of clippings. Grasscycling reduces waste, reduces irrigation and fertilizer needs, and makes your lawn greener and healthier.

1. Cut your grass when it's dry.
2. Cut with sharp mower blades.
3. Set the blade height of your traditional or mulching mower so only one-third of grass blade is cut.
4. Cut regularly, before the height of your grass reaches four inches.
5. Leave the grass clippings on the lawn. They will break down into the lawn as a natural fertilizer.

Maximize the benefits of grasscycling by aerating your lawn. This opens the soil and permits greater movement of water, fertilizer and air – which speeds decomposition of the grass clippings and improves deep root growth.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Mow when the grass is dry to avoid clumping.
- Cut no more than one-third of the grass blade at one time.
- If the grass is very overgrown, mow twice: first at a high setting, then wait a few days and mow lower.
- Mow every five to seven days in the spring.
- Water and fertilize less. Every time you grasscycle you add free fertilizer to your lawn.
- Sharpen mower blades two or three times each year.
- Water the lawn less frequently, but for longer periods of time.
- Water only in the morning to reduce evaporation from the heat of the sun.



GRASSCYCLING ...

DOES NOT cause thatch buildup.

DOES NOT spread lawn disease.

WILL NOT make your lawn look bad.

BENEFITS OF GRASSCYCLING

- It's easy and can save time by eliminating the necessity for the collection and disposal of grass clippings.
- Encourages a healthier lawn by returning valuable nutrients to the lawn. When properly clipped, grass clippings decompose quickly and reduces the need for fertilizer because grass clippings return nitrogen to the soil.
- Can reduce your lawn's annual fertilizer needs, reducing fertilizer costs and water pollution.
- Reduces water evaporation from the lawn and enhances lawn tolerance to drought.
- By mowing at a raised height, you reduce stress that can retard root growth. Frequent mowing at a low cutting height deprives the root system of nutrients and moisture.
- Keeps the soil temperature cooler. Longer grass blades create more shade, providing the soil protection from the sun.
- Improves spring green-up and lawns stay green longer in dry summer conditions.
- Improves soil and lawn health and resistance to disease.
- Saves energy, reduces mowing time and hauling to compost yard.



Information provided courtesy of:

CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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