

Grasscycling

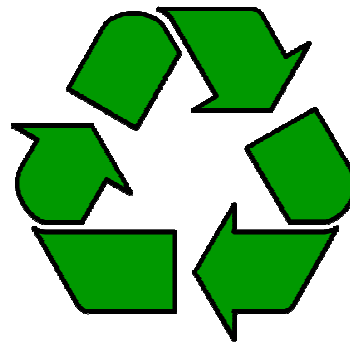
Grasscycling means recycling grass clippings into your soil. Grasscycling helps your lawn, helps the environment and makes mowing easier and faster.

- Grass clippings are 100 percent recyclable.
- Grass clippings promote better growth by returning essential plant nutrients to the lawn.
- Every trash bag of grass clippings contains as much as a quarter pound of usable organic nitrogen.
- Grass clippings keep the temperature of the soil cooler and help maintain soil moisture.
- Grasscycling enhances topsoil development and improves soil structure.
- During the summer, grass clippings can account for more than 50 percent of all residential trash.
- Grasscycling frees up valuable landfill space and reduces landfill methane gas and leachate problems.

Lawn Care

Recycling grass clippings requires only basic lawn care:

- Mow frequently, each time cutting about ½ inch to 1 inch and never cutting the lawn shorter than 2 to 2 ½ inches in height.
- Keep mower blades sharp to avoid injuring the grass and to minimize the length of the grass clippings.
- Use a mulching mower or one that discharges grass clippings evenly.
- Do not overfertilize. Too much fertilizer can contaminate surface and ground water and stimulate new growth that will need mowing.
- Do not water excessively. Too much water can increase that need for more frequent mowing.



Mulching

Avoid grasscycling when your lawn is too tall or the conditions are too wet. Instead, use grass clippings as mulch.

Mulching provides a variety of benefits:

- Clippings spread evenly around the garden and bedding plants help control weeds.
- Mulching shades the soil surface, keeps soil temperatures low and helps to retain moisture.
- Clippings release valuable nutrients as they decompose.

If you can't use your grass clippings, find a neighbor who can. If not, your community may have a yard waste composting program that will take your lawn clippings.

Avoid mulching grass clippings recently treated with herbicides that may harm sensitive plants. Instead, leave recently treated clippings on the lawn or place them into a compost bin, where most herbicides will break down.

Benefits of Grasscycling

- Mowing time can be reduced 50 percent by eliminating the bagging and disposal of clippings.
- You won't need to purchase expensive trash bags.
- Grasscycling saves time and money spent on commercial fertilizers.
- You'll eliminate physical injuries caused by bagging, lifting and carrying grass clippings.



Composting Yard Waste

Composting grass clippings and leaves is another time- and money-saving option for recycling yard waste.

The brochure *Composting in Your Backyard* is available from the North Dakota Department of Health. In addition, information about composting is available at the Department of Health website: www.ndhealth.gov/WM/composting/CompostingInformation.htm



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Recycling Grass Clippings



Putting Grass Clippings To Work While You Mow



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