



Grasscycling Guide

Grasscycling is the simple practice of leaving grass clippings on the lawn when mowing.

Benefits of Grasscycling

- Encourages a healthier lawn by returning nutrients to the soil reducing fertilizer needs, thereby saving time, and money and decreasing the amount of runoff into the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.
- Eliminates the need to bag or rake grass clippings.
- Does not contribute to thatch buildup or increase turf diseases. Grass clippings are largely composed of water and decompose rapidly.
- Grass clippings keep the temperature of the soil cooler and help maintain soil moisture; clippings also improve soil structure.

Grasscycling Requires Only Basic Lawn Care!

Mow frequently, each time cutting about ½ inch to 1 inch, 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 water excessively. During the driest period of summer, lawns only require about 1 inch of water every five to six days.

Do not over-fertilize; grasscycling reduces the amount of fertilizer needed.

Aerate your lawn. Aeration permits greater movement of water, fertilizer, and air by increasing the speed of decomposition of grass clippings and enhancing deep root growth.

Avoid grasscycling if your lawn is too tall or conditions are too wet.

Avoid mulching grass clippings that have been treated with herbicide.

Bonus points for protecting pollinators by eliminating herbicide use ("weeds" feed bees) and leaving your leaves until last frost!

*Grass clippings, leaves, and other small yard trimmings can also be composted.

*If you can't use your grass clippings, drop them off, at the Northern Landfill's yard waste area (1400 Baltimore Blvd., Westminster, MD 21157) to be recycled into mulch!



Did you know?
During the summer, grass clippings can account for more than 50% of all residential trash!

CARROLL COUNTY OFFICE OF RECYCLING
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