

Success Tip...

Return Grass Clippings Back to the Turf!

Proper lawn care includes regular mowing of the lawn. And mowing the lawn produces grass clippings. Don't bag those clippings and send them to the landfills. Throw them back into the turf where they came from!

Reasons for NOT bagging grass clippings:

- Grass clippings do not contribute to thatch. Thatch is a brown spongy layer of material made up of dead grass stems and roots.
- Clippings are 75% water and break down quickly.
- Clippings contain Nitrogen (P and K) and other nutrients as well.
- As much as 50% of the nitrogen applied to the lawn is removed when grass clippings are collected.
- Nutrients in the clippings are returned to the soil (can provide as much as 25% of your lawns total fertilizer needs).
- Clippings add organic matter back to the soil and encourages microorganisms, resulting in water conservation and less fertilizer needed.
- Less fertilizer needed means cost savings for you, and reduction of pollution in rain water runoff from your yard.
- Clippings left on the lawn means no bagging and hauling / no additions to landfills. Also reduces mowing time by as much as 40%.
- Earthworms enjoy grass clippings.

Research Proves It! -A recent study comparing lawns where the clippings were returned to the lawn vs. being removed showed that the lawns with the clippings returned had: -45% less crabgrass -up to 60% less disease -up to 45% more earthworms -60% more water reaching plant roots -25% greater root mass -50% reduced need for nitrogen fertilizer. (University of Connecticut)

NOTE: When mowing to return grass clippings back to the turf, mow on a regular basis, with a sharp mower blade, never removing more than 1/3 of the grass blade each time you mow. If the grass gets too high, adjust the mower height to remove 1/3 of the blade, and then mow again in 2-3 days, and again in 2-3 days until the desired height is reached. Do not bring overgrown grass back to the normal mowing height in one mowing!

Other Uses for Clippings: Grass clippings can also be recycled as a mulch in the garden, soil amendment, or added to the compost pile (assuming no weed killers have been used – leave those on the lawn).

