

Mulch Your Grass

Mulching your grass is a natural approach to yard care that can produce healthier lawns while saving time, money and reducing waste.

What is Grass Mulching?

Grass mulching is recycling grass clippings by simply leaving them on your lawn instead of bagging them for disposal.

Why Mulch your Grass?

- **Reduce Waste:** reduces the use of plastic bags, landfill space and space in your brown cart.
- **Save Water:** Grass clippings are 75 to 85 percent water and decompose quickly which returns that moisture to the soil.
- **Healthier Lawns:** as the grass clippings breakdown, they slowly release nutrients (nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus) back into the soil.
- **Save Money:** Reduces the need to buy fertilizer and the need for watering because grass clippings are mostly water and nutrients.

Basic Rules of Mulching your Grass:

- Set your lawnmower to cut no more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the length of the grass blade to ensure roots will grow. Deep roots will keep your grass from needing frequent watering during the dry summer months.
Tip: Grass grew too high? Mowing over the clippings a second time produces smaller pieces.
- Mow your lawn only when it is dry to prevent grass clippings from clumping.
Tip: Have excess amount of clippings? Grass clippings are great addition to a backyard compost pile.
- Only use sharp mower blades. Dull blades tear grass and weaken it making it prone to diseases and being overrun by weeds.

Common Concerns

Grass mulching will cause thatch build-up

Many people believe that grass clippings left on a lawn will cause thatch build-up. It's not true. Too much watering and over fertilizing can cause shallow roots, which research has shown is the primary cause of thatch build-up.

Grass mulching will cause my lawn to look bad

If lawns are cared for properly, mulching your grass will give you a healthier looking lawn at no extra cost.

I will need to buy a new mulching lawnmower

You don't need to buy a lawnmower with a mulching blade to mulch your grass. You can mulch your grass with any lawnmower (electric, push, gas). If the lawnmower has a collection bag, remove it to allow the clippings to be scattered into the lawn. Caution: If your lawn mower does not have a safety flap covering the opening where the bag fits into the chute, purchase a retrofit kit from your local hardware store before using.

**If you use a landscape service, ask them to leave the clippings on your lawn.*

