

# 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.*

