

ALLEN TOWNSHIP Grasscycling Initiative

Less Fertilizer * Less Water * Less Work* Less Waste



Why Should I Cut and Leave My Grass Clippings?

- Grass clippings can represent from 20 to 50 percent of the solid waste going into landfills in the spring and summer. A typical 1/2-acre lawn in Pennsylvania produces more than three tons--nearly 260 bags--of grass clippings each year. This dramatically increases the trash hauling cost for township residents.
- Clippings left on the lawn, shelter and help retain water, therefore requiring less watering.
- As clippings decompose, they act as a natural organic fertilizer, reducing the amount of fertilizer you'll need by 20 to 25% saving you money and application time. You'll no longer need to buy bags or haul them to the road.
- Years of research have shown that by mowing frequently (5-6 times per month) and not bagging grass clippings, homeowners can save up to 40% of the time they spend on routine lawn care!

Simple steps for Grasscycling

- Cut only the top 1/3 of the grass blade and LEAVE the clippings right on the lawn
- Keep your mower blade sharp and mow when the grass is dry to avoid tracking and clumping
- If the grass gets too high, mow over the clippings a second time to further shred and scatter them.
- To prevent excess growth between mowings, raise the mower height, mow, then gradually lower it over a span of several mowings. This will help prevent shock to the plants.
- Thatch, a matted layer of dead roots and stems, usually is caused by too much water and fertilizer. Clippings don't produce thatch because they are 80 percent water and decompose quickly.
- No special equipment is necessary. While mulching mowers are available and do a great job, any conventional mower can grasscycle - just remove the collection bag! In the case of rear discharge mowers, the exhaust chute must be shut off.
- Mulching blades, adapter kits or retro-fit kits are now readily available for your conventional mowers.
- Too much fertilizer means rapid growth and more mowing. Be sure to follow the directions carefully.

For additional information or questions concerning grasscycling, please do not hesitate to contact the Township Office, at (610)262-7012.

Just Cut it and Leave it!