

# Grasscycling

Just Mow and Go to Save Time and Help the Environment!



## What Is Grasscycling?

Grasscycling is the natural recycling of grass clippings by leaving them on the lawn after mowing. The grass clippings decompose quickly and return valuable nutrients to the soil.

To make grasscycling most effective, be sure the lawn is dry before you mow it. Second, ensure that your mower blades are sharp. Dull blades tear the grass instead of cutting it, which will lead to unhealthy and jagged-ended grass.

Use the one-third rule: mow more often and make sure that your mower is set to cut no more than one-third of the total



length of the grass. If you cut more than a third of the length, the ground will have trouble absorbing all the nutrients.

After mowing there is no need to rake clippings or bag them. Allow the grass clippings to settle naturally on the soil.

## Grasscycling Saves Money for You!

Leaving grass clippings on the lawn instead of bagging them can save labor and money for both you and the City of Fort Wayne.

You save the time you might otherwise spend raking and bagging clippings. Because grasscycling provides the lawn with natural fertilizer, you avoid the cost of buying and applying chemical fertilizer and you don't have to buy lawn waste bags.

In 2016, Fort Wayne residents sent 12,245 tons of grass clippings in the Fort Wayne landfill. Grass clippings take up valuable landfill space, and residents pay for every ton of waste that goes to the landfill through the monthly garbage fee.

## Tips for watering and fertilizing

- If you choose to water, make sure to do so in the early morning to reduce evaporation
- Lawns that are watered too frequently can develop shallow root systems that make grass more susceptible to stress and disease
- Deeper but less frequent watering produces a stronger and more extensive root system
- Before applying fertilizer, have your soil tested to find out which, if any, additional nutrients are needed
- If you decide to use chemical fertilizer, use fertilizer containing low or no phosphorus
- Apply fertilizer according to package directions; don't over-fertilize

## Benefits of Grasscycling

- ✓ Reduces the time spent mowing and maintaining your lawn
- ✓ Saves valuable landfill space
- ✓ Improves lawn quality by returning nutrients back to the soil
- ✓ Makes turf greener and tougher; prevents thatch
- ✓ Helps keep grass clippings and fertilizer from being carried into the City's rivers by stormwater runoff

### Resources

[www.acwastewatcher.org/compost/what-is-grasscycling/](http://www.acwastewatcher.org/compost/what-is-grasscycling/)

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

[www.acwater.org/sites/default/files/Grass%20Clippings%20and%20Composting.pdf](http://www.acwater.org/sites/default/files/Grass%20Clippings%20and%20Composting.pdf)

Questions?

Contact the City of Fort Wayne by dialing 311 or (260) 427-8311

