

CONTACT:

LAZY LAWN CARE TIP PRODUCES BEAUTIFUL RESULTS

Did you know that a 1/2 acre of lawn in Massachusetts produces more than three tons or nearly 260 bags of grass clippings each year? Think of all the time, money and effort it would take to bag all those clippings. Why go through all that hassle when it's completely not necessary? You can have a healthy green lawn by leaving grass clippings where they fall. Grass clippings left on your lawn will decompose quickly and act as a natural organic fertilizer. This allows you to reduce the amount of additional commercial fertilizer you need to buy and apply. Your lawn will still be healthy and green because each time you mow, you will be returning valuable nutrients to the soil.

Less is More

Letting grass clippings drop back on the lawn means the lawn will require less fertilizer, less water, less work, and best of all, less waste. Recycling clippings back into the lawn requires minimal effort. Here's a strong example of where being lazy is a benefit. You can reduce your mowing time by nearly 40 percent by not bagging, and you'll spend less money on fertilizer and trash bags. No one has to handle the clippings -- not you, not your lawn care professional and not the waste management crew. And by not bagging grass, you'll be doing your part for the environment by reducing waste. In fact, grass clippings are banned from disposal in Massachusetts. If you follow these "Don't Trash Grass" mowing, fertilizing and watering guidelines, not only will you have a healthy lawn, but you'll never have to bag grass clippings again.

Mowing techniques and tips

- Any mower can recycle grass clippings. Simply remove the grass catcher. Ask your lawn mower dealer if a special safety plug or adapter kit is needed to convert your mower into a "recycling" mower. You can also have a mulching blade installed. A garbage bag of clippings contains up to 1/3 pound of usable organic nitrogen and other nutrients.
- Keep your grass mowed to 2 to 3 inches tall.
- Do not remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade in any single mowing. For example, if your lawn is kept at 2 inches tall, it should not be allowed to grow higher than 3 inches before it is mowed again.

JUNE ARTICLE

- If the grass gets too tall between mowing, add the clippings to your compost pile or use them as mulch.
- Mow when the grass is dry.
- When it's time to replace your mower, consider buying a mulching, recycling, or a non-polluting reel mower.

Watering your lawn

- Conserve resources by not watering unless the grass really needs it. Let Mother Nature water your lawn.
- Water deeply and less frequently to encourage deep root growth. Light, frequent watering encourages shallow roots and may lead to increased disease and stress injury.
- The best time to water is in the morning because less water is lost through evaporation and transpiration.

Lastly, think about alternative landscapes to grass. Consider planting ground covers such as English ivy, pachysandra, and periwinkle; increasing shrub beds; or growing a wildflower meadow as alternatives to turf-grass. They look beautiful, don't need mowing and will help reduce lawn maintenance and yard waste!

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