

TIPS FOR IMPROVING THE LONG TERM HEALTH OF YOUR LAWN.

Proper care of an established lawn does more than affect the immediate appearance of the turf; it also affects the turf's long-term health and ability to resist pest attacks. Follow this tip to help meet these goals.

GRASSCYCLING

Grass clippings are a perfectly balanced, pollution-free lawn fertilizer, rich in protein. Leaving them on the lawn feeds the soil, not the landfill, and saves money in the process!

Leaving grass clippings on the lawn (grasscycling) has many advantages. It has been found to:

- reduce fertilizer needs by 25 to 50 percent,
- cut labour for mowing and disposal in half,
- substantially reduce demands on landfills,
- improve overall color of lawns, and
- reduce weed populations.

The use of a mulching type mower is ideal for grass-cycling as it cuts the clippings smaller and allows for quicker breakdown. It may be necessary to remove the clippings if they are long and will smother the lawn.

The nutrient ratio in clippings is about 5:1:3 (N:P:K), which is similar to that of a high quality turf fertilizers. The nitrogen in the clippings is in a natural organic form, thus is released slowly. Clippings also add essential organic matter to the soil and have been shown to improve the rate water will move in the soil.

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