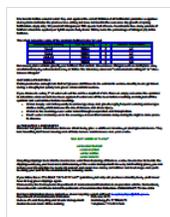




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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



GRASSCYCLING IT'S OK TO "LET IT LAY"

Did you know that a 1/2-acre lawn in Pennsylvania produces more than three tons—nearly 260 bags—of grass clippings each year? Think of all the time, money and effort it takes to bag all those clippings. Why go through all that hassle when it's not necessary?

YOU CAN HAVE A HEALTHY GREEN LAWN BY LEAVING GRASS CLIPPINGS WHERE THEY FALL.



It's simple. Grass clippings left on the lawn decompose and act as a natural organic fertilizer. This lets you reduce the amount of commercial fertilizer you need to apply. Your lawn will remain healthy and green because each time you mow, you will be returning valuable nutrients to the soil.

MOWING TECHNIQUES & TIPS

Any mower can recycle grass **clippings**. Just remove the grass catcher. Ask your lawn mower dealer if you need a special safety plug or adapter kit to convert your mower into a "recycling" mower. Installing a mulching blade also is helpful.

- **Never cut off more than 1/3 of the grass blade in one mowing.** Keep grass mowed to 2" in early spring, gradually raise the height to 3-4" by summer, then gradually reduce to 2" by late fall.
- **Mow when the grass is dry.**
- **Keep your mower blade sharp.** Dull mowers tear the grass blade, injure the plant and cause a brownish cast to the turf.
- 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.
- When it's time to replace your mower, **consider a mulching, recycling or nonpolluting reel mower.** All of them do a good job of shredding and scattering grass clippings.

WHAT ABOUT THATCH?