

## Grasscycling, proper fertilizing, and proper watering equal a healthy lawn



Grasscycling with proper fertilizing and watering are the ingredients for a healthy lawn. Remember that grasscycling provides half of the nitrogen needed by a lawn, so you will not need as much fertilizer. Over-fertilizing weakens your lawn and causes excess growth. Sunny lawns only require three applications of fertilizer per year in May, September and November. For shaded lawns, two applications of fertilizer will be enough. Remember, fertilizing in the fall and/or winter is best for your lawn.



When watering your lawn, water efficiently, not often. Over watering will cause your lawn to grow faster, so control your watering times. Water during the early morning or evening when less evaporation occurs. Always wet soil to a depth of four to six inches. This is perfect for building healthy roots and green growth.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the benefits of Grasscycling and how it can reduce our impact on the environment.

Residents that practice Grasscycling help to reduce the amount of organics that must be managed and processed.

Information and composting bins  
available for purchase at  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
of Rockland County  
845-429-7085  
[www.rocklandcce.org](http://www.rocklandcce.org)

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### Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority

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# Grasscycling Practices for a sustainable lawn



**Cut it and leave it. Recycle your  
grass clippings naturally!**

Save time, money, and  
improve lawn quality



Rockland County  
Solid Waste Management Authority

[www.RocklandRecycles.com](http://www.RocklandRecycles.com)



## What is Grasscycling?

Grasscycling is the natural recycling of grass clippings by leaving clippings on the lawn after mowing. There is no need to bag them, just *cut it and leave it!* Grass clippings make up a significant part of our waste stream, and there are limited areas to dispose of them because of the odor problems they cause. You can help be a part of the solution to the problem. At the same time, save time and money—plus have a healthier lawn!

## Grasscycling Begins with Proper Mowing

To be successful with grasscycling, proper mowing is essential. Avoid mowing more than one-third of the lawn height. Most New York lawns thrive when mowed to about 2 to 3 inches, especially in the summer. Taller grass shades the soil, cools the roots and prevents weeds, which gives you a healthier lawn.

**Tip:** Remember to sharpen your mower blade about once a month. Dull blades shred and tear grass, which turns tips brown. Do not cut grass when wet. Wet grass clogs mowers.

## Lawnmowers & Grasscycling

To grasscycle, a special mower is not needed. Regular mowers can be modified for grasscycling. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions. For further information please contact the mower manufacturer or a local lawn mower repair shop.

Also, check with your local lawn mower dealer about mulching mowers. Models are available that finely cut up grass clippings and return them to the lawn. Mulching mowers get grass clippings back into the soil, which acts as a good source of fertilizer for your lawn. Grasscycling provides up to one-half of the nitrogen needed by a lawn. When you rake them up, you rob your lawn of food, which will have to be replaced. Grasscycling enables you to provide your lawn with a low maintenance fertilizer schedule.

## Did you know?

Some golf courses grasscycle for the time savings and health benefits it provides in creating a well-manicured turf.

## Push Mowers vs. Gas Mowers

Do not forget to consider push mowers. They are making a comeback in the form of what is called a reel mower. The reel mowers are light-weight, easier to use push mowers. They are environmentally friendly since they have no engines that cause air or noise pollution. Since push mowers have no engine, they have low maintenance. They require no gasoline, oil or spark plugs. The only maintenance that is required is to sharpen the blades every other season.

The blades on gas-powered mowers require sharpening more frequently. Blades must be sharp when you grasscycle, whether you use a push or gas mower.

## What About Thatch?

Grasscycling does not contribute to thatch problems. Thatch is caused by accumulated dead roots.

Remember, the more you fertilize and water your lawn, the faster it grows, and the faster thatch will accumulate.

