

Landfill Space

During the summer months grass clippings can account for as much as one-third of the residential solid waste. By leaving grass clippings on the lawn when you mow, you're letting nature do the recycling for you.

Frequently Asked Questions

- What about excessive growth?

A: Double Mow: Set the mower higher than usual and cut no more than the top third of the grass. In another day or two, drop the mower height lower and cut the lawn down another third. Continue as needed.

- What about thatch?

A: Thatch is formed from the accumulation of dead roots and stems, not the grass clippings. The more you fertilize and water your lawn, the more it grows and the faster thatch accumulates.

- Do I need a mulching mower?

A: No. Mulching blades and adapter kits are available for many types of lawn mowers. When it's time to replace your mower, consider purchasing an electric mulching mower.

Sustainable Verona was created as part of the Sustainable Jersey Program. Sustainable Jersey® is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. Sustainable Jersey towns and cities implement practices that lead to cost savings in energy, water and garbage bills. The program helps communities improve efficiency, cut waste and stimulate their local economies.



For More Information Please visit
www.SustainableJersey.com

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**SUSTAINABLE
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Grass
Cut It &
Leave It!



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Benefits of “Cut It and Leave It”

The objective of a “Grass – Cut It and Leave It” educational program is to encourage residents to leave grass clippings on the lawn when they mow, since grass clippings provide a natural and healthy fertilizer for a growing lawn. By cutting lawns short and removing the clippings, residents rob their lawns of their own natural fertilizer(s) and create waste that must be hauled away for disposal or recycling by a truck. By cutting the grass at a higher level and leaving the clippings on the lawn, residents can:

- **Save Time & \$\$\$**
- **Use Less Water**
- **Use Less Fertilizer**
- **Use Less Pesticides**
- **Save Landfill Space**
- **Benefit The Environment!**

How To Cut It & Leave It

Do not cut more than the top third of your lawn so the small clippings will filter down to the soil. Most NJ lawns should be mowed 2 1/2– 3 1/2 inches high, especially during the summer months, to shade the soil, cool the roots, and block weed growth. During fast growing periods you may have to cut the grass every four to seven days. Mulching mowers help the clippings disappear down into the soil.

Save Time & Money

Since the grass is no longer bagged, fewer stops are required, no more dragging bags out to the curb, or taking trips to the dump. The overall time spent on lawn care decreases with the elimination of bagging, even when mowing increases to once every four to seven days. You will also avoid having to buy yard waste bags.

Watering

Water control will help your lawn grow at a healthy and manageable rate. It is best not to water until the lawn is dry. Watering your lawn is best done in the early morning. An inch of water per week is sufficient for good root growth. If managed carefully, water will soak the soil four to six inches down, perfect for healthy root systems and creating a nice green lawn.

Fertilizer

Fertilizing varies with soil types and growing conditions. Too much means rapid growth and more mowing. Test the soil to determine your fertilizer need. A test kit can be obtained from your County Extension Office. A good rule to follow is 2 to 4 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn per year. September is the best time to begin fertilizing and for a healthier lawn it can be done again in October or November. This will create a greener lawn throughout the winter months and strengthens roots for spring time growth without the long growth caused by spring fertilization. Fertilizing in the summer can cause some grasses to die and is not recommended unless needed. Fertilizer containing at least 50% controlled release nitrogen is advised. Look for “water soluble or WIN”, “organic”, or “slow release” nitrogen on the bag.

Pesticides

Pesticides can make the clippings unsuitable for mulch so it is recommended to cut it and leave it when using such products. Too much can burn the lawn, kill nearby plants and contaminate waterways. Pre-emergent weed killers along with spot application can be used if your lawn only has a few weeds. Call your extension agent before selecting an insecticide. You may find you don't need any at all.