



### Mowing Tips



*Grass clippings contain around 4% nitrogen, 2% potassium, and 1% phosphorus, which, when returned to the soil, provides the lawns and plants the essential nutrients they need naturally without adding chemicals.*

### The Benefits, Do's and Don'ts of Mulching with Leaves and Grass Clippings

- Grass clippings (and other plant matter such as leaves) can be used as a mulch around garden plants and flowers. When used as mulch, they will release the nutrients they contain and help plants and soils retain moisture. If you use grass clippings as a mulch, the mulch should be slowly built up to a maximum layer of 1 inch.
- Returning grass clippings and leaves to the lawn using a mulching mower, helps to improve soil organic content, root growth and turf thickening. Mulching provides even greater benefits in the fall. With improved organic content, soils will have a greater ability to filter and retain rain, reducing the need for frequent watering.
- When mulching grass clippings back to the lawn, remove only 1/3 of the total blade height. You may have to mow more often (more than once a week) during the spring and summer growing season.
- Do not return grass clippings to your lawn if it is wet; this causes the clippings to clump together and can cause damage to the lawn beneath the clumps. Damage can also occur if you attempt to mulch excess grass and/or are removing more than 1/3 of the total blade height.
- It is not recommended to mulch grass back onto the lawn if the thatch (undecomposed plant material) layer of the lawn greater than 1/2". Excess thatch inhibits the clippings from reaching the soil and microorganisms necessary for decomposition.





### Benefits of Recycling Grass Clippings:

- Grass clippings (and other plant matter) can be used as a mulch around garden plants and flowers that will act as fertilizer and help retain moisture. The mulch should be slowly built up to a maximum layer of 1 inch.
- Returning grass clippings to the lawn, in Autumn especially, promotes root growth and turf thickening.
- Grass clippings contain around 4% nitrogen, 2% potassium, and 1% phosphorus, which, when returned to the soil, provides the lawn/plant the essential nutrients it needs.
- It reduces the need of watering by allowing the lawn/plant to better retain moisture.



## Do's and Don'ts of returning grass clippings to the lawn

### *Do's*

- Mow your lawn with your mower set at the highest mowing height to ensure the clippings will fall onto the lawn.
- Remove only 1/3 of total blade height off the top of the grass for mulching.
- Mow more often (more than once a week) when grass is growing faster in the spring and summer to prevent cutting more than 1/3 off the top of the grass.
- Check to make sure your mower is still safe to use with the bagging attachment removed.
- Research to find out the optimum seasonal timeline for your specific type of grass.

### *Don'ts*

- Do not leave an excessive amount of grass clippings on your lawn; this can cause it damage. Make sure it is evenly spread throughout the lawn.
- Do not return grass clippings to your lawn if there is a thatch layer (undecomposed plant matter) more than 1/2 inch thick; this will inhibit the grass from reaching the soil and microorganisms necessary for decomposition.
- Do not return grass clippings to your lawn if it is wet; this causes the clippings to clump together and can damage to the lawn beneath the clumps.