

# Grasscycling



Water and Waste Department

## What is grasscycling?

Grasscycling is simply leaving the clippings on the lawn after mowing. The clippings dehydrate, then decompose and quickly disappear.

## Why should I grasscycle?

Grasscycling:

- ▶ Is good for your lawn because it returns valuable nutrients to the soil beneath the lawn.
- ▶ Reduces work because you don't have to rake or bag the clippings.
- ▶ Saves on the cost of garbage bags.
- ▶ Benefits the environment because grass clippings are recycled naturally and don't take up precious landfill space.

## How do I grasscycle?

- ▶ You can use almost any mower (push, gas or electric). There are special mulching mowers that produce finer, less noticeable clippings. Kits are also available to convert most rotary mowers to mulching mowers.
- ▶ Remove the collection bag from the mower.
- ▶ Keep the lawn mower blades sharp.
- ▶ Cut when the grass is dry.
- ▶ Cut the grass when it is about 2-1/2 to 3 inches tall. Cut no more than 1/3 of the length of the grass blade (or just under 1 inch).

## Why is grasscycling good for your lawn?

The clippings act like a slow-release fertilizer as they decompose, releasing back to the soil a portion of the nutrients contained in each blade. Grass clippings will provide almost all of the nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium required by a lawn if it is already healthy.

## Will grasscycling produce a healthy looking lawn?

Together with a good lawn care program, grasscycling can produce a healthy looking lawn. A good lawn care program includes:

- ▶ A good raking of the lawn in the spring to remove dead grass and thatch.
- ▶ Aerating the lawn periodically to allow nutrients, air and water to reach the grass roots.
- ▶ Adequately watering the lawn. Deep waterings in the early morning or in the evening once or twice a week are more effective and waste less water than many light surface waterings.