

Leave grass clippings on the lawn

Leaving grass clippings on the lawn after mowing is the natural recycling of grass, also known as grasscycling. The next time you mow the lawn, try leaving clippings on the lawn rather than putting them in your green cart or in paper yard waste bags.

It's good for your lawn

- Grass clippings will quickly break down, returning nutrients to the soil.
- Clippings help protect the soil and increase soil health by keeping moisture in the ground.

It's good for you

- Saves you time and energy collecting and disposing of clippings in the green cart, bagging in paper yard waste bags and lifting bags of grass.
- Saves you money by reducing the need for paper yard waste bags.
- Saves you water and fertilizer, as your lawn will stay more hydrated from the clippings.

It's good for the environment

- Reduces the amount of waste put out for collection and processing, and helps keep our operations running more efficiently.
- Saves space in your green cart, so the cart doesn't fill up as quickly and reduces the need for paper yard waste bags.
- Grass clippings are good in the compost facility, but even better when it's left on your lawn.



How to leave clippings on the lawn

Cut grass when the surface is dry and keep mower blades sharp. Follow the 1/3 rule: mow your lawn often enough so that no more than 1/3 your grass is cut. You may need to raise the height of your mower. This frequent mowing will produce short clippings that will break down quickly.

You can leave clippings on the lawn with almost any mower (push, electric or gas). Using your existing mower, simply remove the bag and leave the clippings on the lawn.

Mulching mowers cut grass blades into small pieces, allowing the clippings to settle into your lawn without clumping. They are sold at most yard and garden stores, nurseries and home supply stores.

Learn more at calgary.ca/grassclippings