

Other Useful Lawn Information

- 1. Watering your lawn:** is best done in the early morning. An inch of water per week is sufficient for good root growth.
- 2. Over watering** your lawn not only makes for a high water bill, it can lead to fungal disease. It is better not to water than it is to water wrong.
- 3. How do you know you are using the right amount of water?** Take a tuna can and place it on the lawn near your sprinkler. When the can is full, your lawn has enough water. The tuna can equals about one inch deep of watering, and the best part is that this only needs to be done once a week for a healthy lawn. More than this just means more mowing.
- 4. Fertilizing** varies with soil types and growing conditions. The rule of thumb is 2 to 4 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn per year.
- 5. Test the soil** to determine your fertilizer need and remember to adjust the pH of the soil to between 6.5 and 7.2. This will improve the efficiency of the nutrients.
- 6. Studies have shown that grass recycling reduces the need for fertilizer by 25%.** One-fourth (¼) acre of lawn produces more than 1 ½ tons of clippings during the growing season!
- 7. The overall time spent** on lawn care decreases with the elimination of bagging, even when mowing increases to once every four (4) to seven (7) days.

Don't Want to "Leave It on the Lawn"

Why not try "Backyard/Home Composting?"

What is Compost? Compost is a dark, crumbly, and earthy smelling form of decomposing organic matter. Decomposition and recycling of organic wastes are an essential part of soil building and healthy plant growth in forest, meadows and in your home garden.

There are many methods to backyard/home composting ranging from a simple pile to a purchased composting bin.

It can be easier and cheaper than bagging these wastes or taking them to the Composting Facility. Compost also improves your soil and the plants growing in it. If you have a garden, a lawn, trees, shrubs, or even planter boxes, you have a use for compost.

How Can I Use Compost? Compost can be used to enrich the flower and vegetable garden, to improve the soil around trees and shrubs, as a soil amendment for houseplants and planter boxes and, when screened, as part of a seed starting mix or lawn top dressing. Before they decompose, chipped woody wastes make excellent mulch or path material. After they decompose, these same woody wastes will add texture to garden soils.

HARFORD COUNTY OFFICE OF RECYCLING
offers backyard composting workshops
in the Spring. Class size is limited.
Call for reservations, 410-638-3417

LEAVE IT ON THE LAWN



Grass Recycling

TOWN OF BEL AIR



Department of Public Works
705 Churchville Road
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410-638-4536

“Leave it on the Lawn”

Lawn Care Waste Reduction Tips

How do you dispose of grass clippings after mowing the lawn?

- Put them in the garbage?
- Put them on the curb for collections?
- Compost them?

Why not try to “LEAVE IT ON THE LAWN?”

- Benefit the environment.
- Improve your lawn.
- Save time.
- Save landfill space.

Why You Should “Leave It on the Lawn”

- Benefits the environment by reducing the amount and frequency of fertilizer application. Grass clippings are 80% water and contain 2-4% nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other nutrients. This is also good for you by lowering fertilizer costs.
- Improves your lawn. Leaving grass clippings on the lawn returns nutrients to the soil resulting in healthier turf.

- Reduces the amount of garbage you throw out. Grass clippings can account for as much as 19% of the garbage we produce.
- Saves time. Since the grass is no longer bagged, fewer stops are required.



How to “Leave It on the Lawn”

Allow your grass to grow to three inches and then cut no more than one inch off the top. This is the “one-third” rule. This helps develop a deeper root system which is a natural defense against weeds, disease and drought. During fast growing periods you may have to cut the grass every four to seven days.



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Common Questions

1. Do grass clippings cause thatch? NO. Thatch is an accumulation of the “woody” parts of the grass plant, stems, roots and stolon, not the clippings. Thatch is most often caused by over watering and over fertilizing.

2. Isn't it more work to mow the lawn often enough to keep the clippings short? NO. Cutting grass before it is overgrown is easier and faster. Eliminating the time and effort it takes to bag clippings further shortens the mowing time.



3. What if my lawn grows too high between mowings to leave the clippings? You have several options. You may mow over the clippings to further shred and scatter them. You may raise the mower height so only the top third of the grass blade is removed and then gradually lower the mower height over the span of several mowings.