

# EAST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP Grasscycling

## What is Grasscycling?

Grasscycling is a natural way of recycling grass clippings by leaving them on the lawn after mowing. Grass clippings decompose quickly and return important water and nutrients back to the soil.

## Why Should I Participate in Grasscycling?

- Save time: no more emptying mower bags and filling garbage bags.
- Save taxpayer money: when you recycle your clippings, the Township doesn't have to pay for disposal. This saves you, the taxpayer, money!
- Lawns stay greener and healthier, providing up to 30% of your lawn's fertilizer needs.
- Reduces pollution from pesticides and herbicides.
- Saves landfill space.

## How to Grasscycle

- Cut no more than one third of the grass blade and no more than 1 inch at a time.
- Mow when the lawn is dry.
- Mow with a sharp blade to keep grass healthy and prevent browning and raggedness.
- Mow in a different direction every time.



## Grasscycling FAQ

### Will grasscycling make my lawn look bad?

No! Short clippings (1/3 blade, less than 1") decompose quickly.

### Does grasscycling cause thatch buildup?

No! Grass roots and stems cause thatch, not grass clippings. The more you fertilize and water your lawn, the faster it grows, and the faster thatch accumulates.

### Does grasscycling spread lawn disease?

No! Improper watering and fertilizing are the primary causes of turfgrass disease.

### Do I need a special lawnmower?

No! While mulching mowers cut up grass clippings more finely, regular lawn mowers can be used by removing the collection bag. To make East Windsor even greener, consider using electric mulching mowers which can help reduce air pollution. Push reel mowers use no gas or electricity and work well, too!

### When does grasscycling NOT work?

Grasscycling does not work with prolonged wet weather or infrequent mowing. In those situations, add the clippings to your compost pile, or use as mulch around trees, flowerbeds, and shrubs.

### What else can I do?

- Mow it high – grass is healthiest at 3" to 4".
- Water less – no more than 30 minutes per week.
- Water early in the day to reduce evaporation
- Fertilize the right way – twice in the fall, never in the spring and use organic or slow release fertilizers
- Shrink your lawn – consider replacing some of your lawn with trees, flowers, or vegetable gardens.



For more information on recycling, please contact East Windsor Township Department of Public Works at (609) 443-4000, Ext. 215 or by email at [dpw@east-windsor.nj.us](mailto:dpw@east-windsor.nj.us).

Flyer produced by East Windsor Township Green Team and East Windsor Township Department of Public Works. Information for this Flyer was derived from the Townships of Nutley and Bloomfield, NYCCompost.org, Broome Co. Div. of Solid Waste Management, and NJDEP.