

Does grasscycling spread lawn disease?

No! Improper watering and fertilizing are the primary cause of turfgrass disease. If an environment for disease is present, it will occur whether clippings are left on the lawn or not. Most grasses in California need about 1 inch of water every 5 to 7 days in the growing season and much less during slow-growth months. Lawns watered too frequently tend to develop shallow root systems that may make them more susceptible to stress and disease. Overfertilization can also weaken a lawn by causing excessive top growth. It is better for the lawn to apply smaller quantities of fertilizer more frequently rather than larger amounts occasionally.

Does grasscycling require special equipment?

You may be able to use your existing mower to grasscycle. Refer to your owner's manual or contact a local lawnmower dealer to learn if you can grasscycle. You may need to purchase a retrofit kit, and your mower dealer can assist you with selecting the correct one.



Remember: Grasscycling is faster, cheaper, and easier!

Saves time
(no more bagging)

Saves money
(less fertilizer is needed, no disposal fees)

Encourages a healthier lawn
(clippings contain valuable nutrients)

Benefits the environment
(conserves landfill space and water resources)

For more information about grasscycling, contact your local recycling coordinator or call the Waste Board at (916) 255-2708.

www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/

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GRASSCYCL



Make the most of your lawn.



Make the most of your time.

Grass clippings make up a surprisingly large portion of California's waste stream. Increasingly, as California communities work to meet the State mandate to cut the amount of trash sent to landfills, they are looking at grasscycling to reduce the amount of green materials generated.



What is grasscycling?

Grasscycling is the natural recycling of grass by leaving clippings on the lawn when mowing. When you grasscycle with a mulching mower, the clippings stay in the chamber longer and are cut and recut before falling back to the soil. Once on the ground, the clippings decompose quickly, returning valuable nutrients back to the



Enjoy a healthier Lawn!

The valuable nutrients released through grasscycling make lawns greener and encourage a healthier stand of grass. Grass clipping decomposition enhances soil microbial activity and adds beneficial organic matter to the soil.

Save money!

Since grasscycling returns valuable nutrients to the soil, you can reduce the amount of fertilizer you purchase by 15 to 20 percent. In addition, even if your community has a green waste collection program, it is costly to collect this material and grasscycling can help keep garbage collection rates down.



Save time!

The average person spends less time on lawn care when they grasscycle. You save time and the hassle of raking, sweeping, bagging, and throwing out grass clippings.



Help the environment!

Grasscycling cuts the amount of green materials going to landfills. Grasscycling slows evaporation from the soil surface, enhancing your lawn's drought tolerance and conserving water. Grasscycling helps reduce fertilizer and water usage, which means less runoff from your lawn that can lead to surface and groundwater pollution. Grasscycling with electric mulching mowers also is better for the air.

Commonly Asked Questions

Will grasscycling make my lawn look bad?

No! The key to maintaining a neat appearance is to cut the lawn often enough to produce short grass clippings. If you follow the 1/3 rule—mow often enough so that no more than 1/3 of the length of the grass is cut—the short clippings decompose quickly and will not cover the grass surface. Also, remember to mow when the grass is dry to prevent grass clippings from clumping in piles on the lawn.

Does grasscycling cause thatch buildup?

No! Short grass clippings left on a lawn do not smother the grass underneath or cause thatch buildup. Research has shown that grass roots and stems are the primary cause of thatch, not grass clippings. Roots and stems contain large amounts of lignin (wood), a substance that decomposes very slowly. In contrast, grass clippings are approximately 80-85 percent water with only small amounts of lignin, and they decompose rapidly.

Is grasscycling always appropriate?

Grasscycling does not work in every situation. Prolonged wet weather, mower breakdowns, or infrequent mowing are situations where grass clippings should probably be bagged since a large number of clippings may be generated. But do not throw the clippings away! Add clippings to your compost pile or use them as mulch around trees.