

Grasscycling

Greening Up Lawn Care Practices

Allen County Partnership for Water Quality (ACPWQ) wants homeowners to remove a step in their lawn care regiments and stop bagging grass clippings. Removing grass clippings from yards causes lawns to lose nutrients, ensuring the need for future fertilizers. This cycle is one many have fallen into, and ACPWQ thinks it is time to break the mold! Each year the average homeowner will spend approximately 70 hours maintaining their lawns to achieve their ideal space. Grasscycling can reduce both the time and money spent maintaining the perfect yard.



Grasscycling, or leaving grass clippings on the lawn, can provide up to 25% of the nutrient needs for a yard. Instead of raking, bagging, and throwing away clippings, let them stay on the lawn, reducing fertilizer application in the future. This practice can reduce mowing time by up to 40%, allowing this chore to pass quickly.

The ideal conditions for grasscycling are to mow when the grass is dry to the touch and with a sharp blade to ensure that the grass will not tear. Additionally, try to cut off no more than 1/3 the length of the grass. The smaller pieces will biodegrade faster and help keep your lawn looking healthy. If poor weather or life events make it difficult to cut the grass at the ideal length, be sure to mow over the clippings to help disperse them and chop them into smaller pieces.

At the end of mowing the grass, use a broom or a leaf blower to get grass clippings off of sidewalks and roads and back on the lawn. This simple step helps curb appeal and ensures nearby storm drains will not have yard waste littering them.

Grasscycling is a great way to improve our local water quality by using fewer fertilizers and reducing the opportunity for excess nitrogen and phosphorus to find their way to our waterways. This process also helps promote healthy soils better equipped to absorb rainwater, which allows us to water our lawns less frequently.

So why wait to gain more free time back in your summer? Start grasscycling to improve the water quality in your area!

