

Mowing



Why should I mow high?

Taller grass means deeper roots that have more access to nutrients and are more drought resistant. It also shades out weeds and helps thicken your turf.



Mow High

Cut only 1/3 of grass blade at a time. Wait until the grass is 4 to 4.5 inches tall, then cut it to 3 inches. Grass in ditches can be trimmed to 6 inches.

Grass blades make food through photosynthesis. When you cut off most of the grass blade, you cut off the plant's kitchen and force the grass to regrow its blade faster. This forced growth spurt uses up the plants' stored food, leaving the plant weaker overall.

Use Sharp Blades

Dull mower blades rip and tear grass, leaving the plants at risk of disease.

Sharp blades make clean cuts that heal faster.

Leave the Clippings

Clippings are a free source of fertilizer; leaving them in place saves time and money! Grass clippings do not create thatch.

Mow Late

Mow in early evening, after the heat of the day, and before the dew settles.

Vary the Mowing Pattern

Vary the mowing pattern every time you mow to prevent soil compaction, scalping, and weed invasion. This will keep your soil and grass healthier.

Seasonal Changes

If you have annual weeds, like crabgrass, use your mower bag when they have seeds to help reduce the amount of weeds you have in the future.

In the fall, use a mulching blade to help turn fallen leaves into organic matter for your soil. You can also mulch the early leaves and leave the later leaves where they lie as overwinter habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects.

In the spring, try to wait as long as possible before raking and mowing. This allows pollinators to emerge once the weather is suitable and their food sources, early flowers like violets, daisies, and dandelions, are in bloom.

