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THE MILE-HIGH CITY

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DENVER RECYCLES  
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER  
A program of  
Solid Waste Management/Denver Public Works

# Grasscycle:

## Feed Your Lawn for Free & Make Less Trash

### What is Grasscycling?

Grasscycling is the practice of leaving grass clippings on your lawn when mowing, instead of bagging them. It's the natural way to recycle grass clippings and provide your lawn with the valuable nutrients and water that it needs.

### Why Grasscycle?

#### MAKE LESS TRASH

Up to 37% of what Denver residents put in the trash during the growing season is yard waste which is predominantly grass clippings. You can significantly reduce your spring and summer waste just by Grasscycling.

#### ENJOY A HEALTHIER LAWN

Grasscycling is an easy way to a healthy lawn and a great way to recycle valuable nutrients for free. Clippings break down quickly and slowly release nutrients like Nitrogen back into the soil beneath your lawn.

#### SAVE WATER

Grass clippings left on your lawn will shade grass roots and help keep the soil cool. And because grass clippings are made up of more than 80% water, they return valuable moisture to the soil which means less watering for you to do.

#### REDUCE YOUR WORK

Grasscycling can drastically reduce the time you spend on lawn care by saving you from the hassle of bagging, raking and disposing of grass clippings.

#### SAVE MONEY

Grasscycling reduces the amount the City must spend to collect, haul and landfill grass clippings.

### You Can Grasscycle Successfully! Try it for a few weeks and see what you think.

1. Mow your lawn when it's dry.
2. Keep your mower blades sharp.
3. Follow the "1/3 Rule" – mow your lawn often enough so that no more than 1/3 of the length of the grass blade is cut and left on the lawn. Lawns are most healthy when mowed to a height of 2 1/2 to 3 inches.

#### Do I need a special mower?

You can Grasscycle with any mower (push, electric, gas or mulching). The mower collection bag should be removed to allow clippings to drop on the lawn. However, if your mower does not have a safety flap covering the opening where the bag fits into the chute, it is important that you purchase a retrofit kit from your hardware store. If you use a landscape service, ask them to leave the clippings on your lawn.

#### Will Grasscycling cause thatch and make my lawn look bad?

Grasscycling does not cause thatch buildup. Research has shown that shallow roots caused by overwatering and overfertilizing are the primary cause of thatch build up, not grass clippings. The short clippings from regular mowing will decompose quickly and will not cover the grass surface or cause thatch.



Don't bag it.



Leave clippings on lawn.



And relax.