

*Presents*

**MULCH MOWING ~ An Alternative to Bagging**

**SAVE TIME WHILE STILL  
MAINTAINING A  
BEAUTIFUL LAWN**

**What is mulch mowing?**

Mowing your lawn so that the blades of grass are chopped up into tiny bits and deposited back into the turf.

**How can mulch mowing save you time and money?**

No more bagging yard clippings! No more buying plastic yard bags! Less time is needed mowing since no bags are required. There is less stress on your back since you don't have to dump the mower bag, rake the clippings or drag the bags of clippings to curb on trash day.

You may be throwing away fertilizer that was recently applied to your lawn. Lawn clippings maintain nutrients and are made up of approximately 80% water, so why not recycle the clippings and encourage a healthier lawn.

**Will I have to purchase a new mower in order to mulch mow?**

Probably not. Most likely you already own a mulch mower or you can change out your mower blade. Refer to your owner's manual or contact a local lawnmower dealer to find out if a retro-fit kit is needed. Some mowers are designed to mulch and also provide an attachment for bagging.

**Does mulch mowing cause thatch build-up?**

No. Thatch is mainly composed of roots, stems, rhizomes, crowns and stolons, not lawn clippings. It only takes about 3-5 days for clippings to decompose.



### **Does mulch mowing spread lawn disease?**

No. Improper water and fertilizing can lead to turfgrass disease.

### **How often should I mulch mow my yard?**

You should mow often enough that you never remove more than one-third of the lawn height. You may need to mow about every five to ten days depending on how fast your lawn grows.

### **Recommended mowing heights for lawns:**

- Kentucky Bluegrass: 1.5 to 2.5 inches
- Tall Fescue: 2 to 3 inches
- Perennial Ryegrass: 1.5 to 2.5 inches
- Bermudagrass: 0.5 to 1 inch
- Zoysiagrass: 0.5 to 1 inch
- St. Augustinegrass: 1.5 to 2.5 inches

### **Where can I learn more about mulch mowing?**

Try surfing the web using the keyword *grasscycling*. These sites provide information about the benefits of mulch mowing. Here is Virginia Tech's address: [www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/turf/](http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/turf/) and The Professional Lawn Care Association of America's address: [www.plcaa.org](http://www.plcaa.org).

### **Why is mulch mowing important?**

The advantages are great. Mulch mowing saves time and money, it encourages a healthier lawn and conserves valuable resources such as landfill space and water.

#### ***Why not give it a try!***

#### ***Benefits to the taxpayer:***

The City of Virginia Beach pays over \$2 million per year to collect and recycle yard waste.

The City of Virginia Beach encourages mulch mowing and provides the above information for your convenience.

**A Helpful Hint From  
City of Virginia Beach  
Waste Management Division  
Recycling Bureau**

3024 Holland Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23453  
757 . 430 . 2450