



Grass Clippings

DID YOU KNOW?

Grass clippings contain phosphorus, the nutrient that turns lakes green with algae. One bushel of fresh grass clippings can contain 0.1 lbs of phosphorus – enough to produce 30 – 50 pounds of algae growth if it finds its way to a lake or river!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Leave grass clippings on the lawn

Direct grass clippings away from streets, driveways, sidewalks and other paved areas

Sweep up grass clippings and return them to the lawn

Set the lawn mower at a higher setting (over 2.5 inches) letting shorter blades fall back onto the lawn as natural fertilizer

Sharpen mower blades every 1-3 years

Mow when your lawn needs it, not on a fixed schedule

Mix grass clippings with leaves and soil to make a backyard compost pile



Why?

- Grass clippings are composed of 85% water!
- With grass recycling, use of fertilizers can be reduced by 30-40% or more!
- Lawns mowed higher are more competitive against weeds.
- Lawns mowed higher withstand heat stress better, need less watering, and are more resilient, reducing bare spots and soil erosion.
- Leaving grass clippings in place leaves the equivalent of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 ft² - the same amount you would get from 1 fertilizer application



Yuck! – algae as a result from too much phosphorus in the lake