

# GrassCycle

Mow & Go – Save Time, Money, and the Environment



## What is Grasscycling?

Grasscycling is the natural recycling of grass clippings by leaving them on the lawn after mowing. The grass clippings decompose quickly and return valuable nutrients to the soil.

### For Optimal Grasscycling Results

- Make sure that the lawn is dry to the touch before mowing.
- Ensure that your mower blade is sharp. This will provide a healthier, even-cut result.
- Don't cut off more than 1/3 of the grass blade – mowing more than that will reduce the grass ability to hold water and absorb nutrients.
- Don't rake or bag clippings, it's best if they can settle into the soil themselves.



## Benefits of Grasscycling

- Reduce the time spent mowing and maintaining your lawn.
- Save money by fertilizing less often.
- Save space in the landfill.
- Improve lawn quality by allowing nutrients to sink into the soil.
- Make turf greener and stronger – prevents thatch.
- Keeps grass and fertilizer from polluting stormwater runoff and the City's rivers.

## Grasscycling Will Save You Money

By allowing your clippings to decompose, you won't have to spend time raking and bagging mowed grass.

This form of compost will provide a natural fertilizer to your existing landscape, so you won't have to purchase and apply a chemical fertilizer or use lawn bags.

In 2016, Fort Wayne residents sent 12,245 tons of grass clippings to the landfill. This waste took up valuable space that could've lowered the monthly garbage fee. By leaving clippings to break down without disposing them, residents will be able to lower the weight of landfill waste

## Tips for Watering and Fertilizing

- When watering your lawn, do so early in the morning to make sure that the water is absorbed.
- Provide your lawn with a deeper, less frequent watering.
- Test your soil to find out exactly what nutrients your grass needs before fertilizing.
- If using a chemical fertilizer, choose one with low to no phosphorous.
- Apply fertilizer according to package directions to prevent over fertilization.

## Resources

[www.ACwastewatcher.org/compost/what-is-grasscycling](http://www.ACwastewatcher.org/compost/what-is-grasscycling)

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

## Questions?

Call the City of Fort Wayne by dialing 311 or (260)427-8311

