

Tear off and mail to your landscaper with your monthly check!

**PLEASE START GRASSCYCLING ON MY LAWN!**

CUT ONLY 1/3 OF THE GRASS HEIGHT AT A TIME AND NO SHORTER THAN 3" HIGH. LEAVE THE CLIPPINGS IN PLACE – DO NOT BAG & LEAVE CURBSIDE OR TAKE AWAY. THANK YOU.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

**You Can Also Leafcycle!**

Fall leaves are a valuable resource that most homeowners let go to waste by having them blown into piles on the street (a danger to drivers) or raked into brown landscaping bags, stacked curbside and left for eventual pickup.

With the same mulching mower, shred your leaves where they are on the lawn. Use shredded leaves as a winter mulch on landscape beds, collect shredded leaves in compost piles, or simply leave them under the trees in wooded areas. These are all examples of using nature's own method of turning old leaves into nutrient-rich soil.

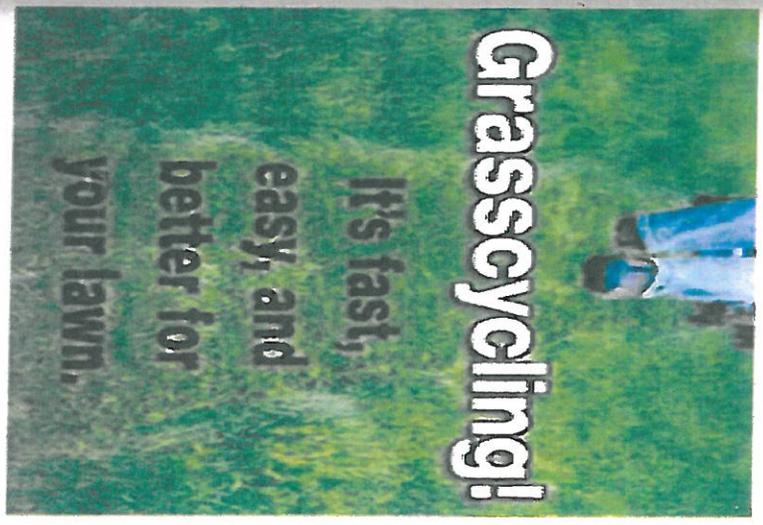
Leaf cycling is also an opportunity to create organic matter for you lawn, ornamental and vegetable beds.



**GrassCycling Saves!**  
· Time · Water  
· \$\$ · Fertilizer



**The City of White Plains Encourages You to Grasscycle**



For more information please contact:

White Plains Department of Public Works,  
(914) 422-1206

Rescue Nature's Nutrients,  
Rescue.natures.nutrients.wp@gmail.com

## What Is Grasscycling?

Grasscycling is the organic recycling of grass by leaving grass clippings on the lawn after mowing rather than bagging and leaving them curbside for pickup.

### Why Should I Grasscycle?

- Grasscycling helps reduce water use. Grass clippings, which are 75-85 percent water, decompose rapidly and return that moisture to the soil, promoting better lawn growth.
  - Grasscycling reduces the need for fertilizers. Grass clippings contain nitrogen rich nutrients providing 25-50 percent of your lawn's fertilizer needs.
  - Grasscycling is good for the environment. It helps protect local streams, rivers and lakes from runoff pollution from yards and gardens and keeps lawns greener and healthier.
  - Grasscycling saves time and work. No more bagging!
  - Grasscycling saves money because it requires less water and fertilizer.
  - Grasscycling saves money if your gardener removes the clippings from your property because he may charge you for disposing of the cut grass.
- # GrassCycling
- Cut it. Leave it. Watch it thrive.

## How to Grasscycle

Grasscycling begins with knowing how and when to mow your lawn.

- Cut your grass at least three inches high. This height smothers weeds, keeps roots cool during hot summers and holds more moisture. Roots mirror the shoots on top so the smaller the blades, the smaller the root system. Strong root systems protect against invasive weeds and insects.
- Follow the one-third rule! A good rule is to cut no more than one-third of the grass height at any one mowing. That means if you choose a 3-inch mowing height, mow the grass when it is 4.5 inches tall, and you've removed one-third of the blade.
- Cut your grass with a sharp blade. Sharp blades cut the grass cleanly and that helps ensure rapid healing and re-growth. Dull blades tear and bruise the grass. The wounded grass becomes weakened and is less able to stop invading weeds and recover from disease.
- Proper watering. Poor watering practices can do more harm to your lawn than good. In general, a healthy lawn needs about one inch of water per week, preferably all at once, to encourage deep roots. Use a rain gauge or a container to measure rainfall and then supplement any shortfall each week.
- Remember: These practices really make a difference but may take a few seasons to get going. Don't give up. Patience, patience, patience.



Grass should be mowed tall and clippings returned to the lawn to produce a healthy lawn. Set your mower at a tall setting so clippings easily fall into the lawn. For cool-season grasses here in the

Northeast, set your mower at 3-4 inches. Mow frequently so you remove no more than one-third of the total height of the grass blade.

## Common Misconceptions

- Grass clippings left on a lawn will smother the grass underneath or cause thatch.

It's not true! Thatch is not made up of grass clippings, but is a layer of roots, leaf sheaths, and rhizomes. This layer stops water and fertilizer from penetrating into the soil where the roots are found.

- Grasscycling spreads lawn disease.

Grasscycling does not spread lawn disease. Improper watering and fertilizing are the main causes of lawn disease. If a favorable environment for lawn disease is present, it will occur whether or not grass clippings are left on the lawn.

- Leaving grass clippings on the lawn will create a "hay-like" look.

That's why it's important to cut your lawn frequently to produce small grass clippings that will fall between the standing blades and decompose quickly.

