

## **Leave Clippings on the Lawn**

Did you know you have access to completely free fertilizer for your lawn? The best part is no extra work is required! What is this miraculous and fabulous free fertilizer? Grass clippings of course! Grass clippings can provide [up to 25%](#) of your lawn's annual nutrient requirements and improve your soil for free!

Grass clippings are high in nitrogen, an essential nutrient that helps plants grow. To reap the benefits of this free fertilizer, use a mulching mower and remove no more than 1/3 blade height when grass reaches optimal lawn height (i.e. 2.5" – 4" for tall fescue, 1"-2" for Bermuda grass). The process of mulching cuts the grass into tiny pieces that rapidly degrade into a slow-release fertilizer for your lawn. Conventional fertilizers must be applied very carefully to avoid nitrogen burning, brown spots or streaks caused by too much nitrogen in one area. Slow-release fertilizers, like grass clippings, help avoid these spots because nitrogen is more slowly released into the soil. Because grass clippings slowly release nutrients, there is no rapid turfgrass growth right after you apply, unlike fast-acting conventional fertilizers. This reduces the need to mow right after fertilizer application, saving you even more money!

Remember, keep clippings on the lawn and off paved areas. Lawn debris can clog storm sewer drains and lead to local flooding issues!

## **Suggested Social Media Text**

Grass clippings rapidly degrade and provide an ongoing source of nutrients to your lawn during the growing season. For best results, use a mulching mower and remove no more than 1/3 blade height. Remember, keep clippings on the lawn and off paved areas. You will reduce fertilizer use and eliminate the need for off-site disposal. It's good for your pocketbook and good for the planet.

## **References and Resources**

AGR-209 Mowing your Kentucky Lawn

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/AGR/AGR209/AGR209.pdf>

Organic Lawn Fertilizers:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLg12Chm\\_Ao&list=UUMFY6zEWe6uJEYakzOofhlg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLg12Chm_Ao&list=UUMFY6zEWe6uJEYakzOofhlg)