

## For More Information...

On grasscycling, lawn care or backyard composting, contact the following organizations:

### Middlesex County Improvement Authority

Division of Recycling  
55 Edgeboro Road  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816  
1-800-488-MCIA  
www.mciauth.com

### Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County

390 George Street, 8th Floor  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
732-745-3442  
www.rce.rutgers.edu

### Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management

96 Bayard Street  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
732-745-4170

Or visit these web sites:

**The Lawn Institute**  
www.lawninstitute.com

**Lawn Doctor**  
www.lawndoctor.com

**Lawn Care Forum**  
www.gardenweb.com/forums/lawns

**Master Composter**  
www.mastercomposter.com



**Middlesex County Improvement Authority**  
101 Interchange Plaza, Cranbury, NJ 08512  
(609) 655-5141  
E-mail: mciaadmin@mciauth.com

**David B. Crabiel**  
Freeholder Director & MCIA Liaison

**MCIA Board:**  
**Leonard J. Roseman**, Chairman  
**Ralph Mocci**  
**Robert J. Mantz**  
**Raymond J. Geneske**  
**Jacque Eaker**

**Richard Pucci**  
Executive Director



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M I D D L E S E X C O U N T Y

# CUT IT & LEAVE IT!

## GRASSCYCLING...

Save Time - Save Money - Save Tax Dollars!  
And get a greener, thicker lawn.



## Grasscycle For A Healthier Lawn

Lawn experts at Rutgers University and other research centers have found that:

- Short grass clippings left on your lawn act as a natural fertilizer, producing a healthier lawn that greens earlier in the spring and stays green later into the fall.
- The grass clippings shelter the tender grass roots from the sun and conserve moisture.
- Grass clippings help to create a thicker, healthier lawn that is more resistant to weeds and certain lawn diseases.
- Grasscycling does *not* cause thatch. Short grass clippings decompose within a few days.

## Grasscycling Saves...

**Your Time.** Experts say we spend as much as 35% of our mowing time getting rid of the clippings: emptying the mower bag, raking, filling the lawn waste bags and dragging them to the curb.

**Your Money.** You need to water and fertilize your lawn far less frequently, because the clippings conserve moisture and act as a natural fertilizer: they add almost two pounds of valuable nitrogen to every 1,000 square feet of lawn. You will also buy fewer lawn waste bags.

**Your Town's Money.** An average lawn creates about one ton of clippings each year. Municipal costs for the collection and disposal of grass clippings run about \$100 per ton.

# CUT IT & LEAVE IT!

**Grasscycling:** Don't bag your grass clippings. Leave them on the lawn.



## 5 Tips For A Great Looking Lawn

1. Any lawn mower will work, but a mulching mower (or a conventional mower with a mulching attachment) will produce the best results.
2. Mow high. Remove only the top 1/3 of the grass blade. You may mow a little more frequently, but your overall lawn care time will decrease.
3. Keep your mower blade sharp. Dull blades tear the grass. This produces ragged, brown edges that invite lawn disease.
4. Water in the morning. Water less frequently, but to a depth of one inch. Shallow watering leaves your lawn susceptible to drought stress, disease and insect problems.
5. Don't over-fertilize. Grasscycled lawns need fertilizer only once or twice a year.

## Other Uses For Grass Clippings

**Use them as mulch.** Put clippings on the soil around plantings to reduce weed growth, moderate soil temperature and conserve moisture.

**Mix them into garden soil.** They add valuable nutrients and organic matter.

**Add them to your compost pile.** Make sure the compost pile consists of 1/3 grass clippings or less, or it may emit odors.

**NOTE:** For all of these uses, avoid grass that has recently been treated with an herbicide. Wait until the second mowing after treatment to use these clippings.

Middlesex County



Improvement Authority