



Health & Environment *Connection*

A publication of LocalMotionGreen, a non-profit organization dedicated to Healthy People and a Healthy Planet

Lawn Mowing Tricks for Tough Turf

Let it Grow - Mow High

- Set mower blades to 3 inches or higher;
- Growing your lawn taller is an excellent way to reduce herbicide use.

Tall Grass:

- Is more stress tolerant, especially important during the intense summer heat;
- Has a larger root structure, which increases uptake of water and nutrients;
- Provides shade, reducing weed seed germination, particularly crab grass.

Twice a Year - Mow Low

- The first cut in the spring and the last cut in the fall should be at 2 inches;
- In the spring this removes any winter fungus;
- In the fall this prevents fungus from getting established during the winter.

Give The Grass a Clean Cut

- Keep your mower blade sharp;
- Mow when the grass is dry;
- Mow in the cool part of the afternoon or evening;
- Mowing with a dull blade or when the grass is wet can cause the tip of the grass to shred, giving the lawn a brown appearance and making the grass more susceptible to disease. Cutting the grass in the intense heat can cause stress to the plant.

Mulch Clippings

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn;
- Mulching reduces the need for fertilizer since important plant nutrients are returned to the soil. A mulching mower circulates the grass clippings in the mowing chamber to produce smaller clippings, which break down more easily.