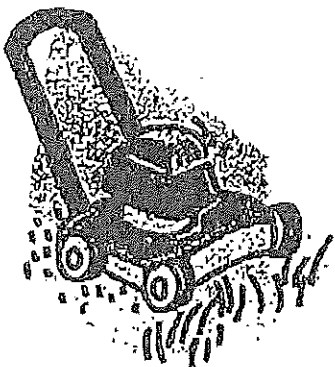
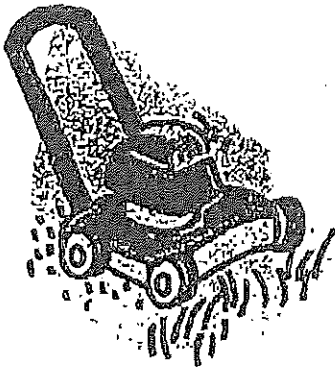
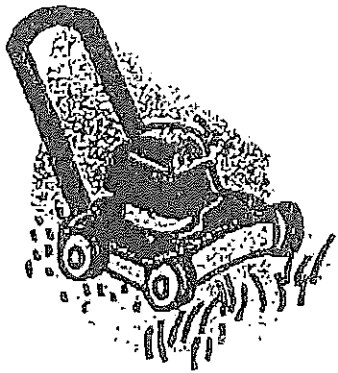


Grass Recycling



HOW TO DISPOSE OF GRASS CLIPPINGS IN GARFIELD

Grass Clippings are to be placed in Paper Recycling Bags Only and placed at the curb after 6:00 PM the day before your designated street sweeper/cleaning day. Bags can be picked up at the DPW office located at 413 Midland Avenue. Clippings placed in garbage cans, or plastic bags will not be picked up. Paper Recycling Bags can be picked up and clippings can also be dropped off at the DPW Monday-Friday 7:00 AM-2:30 PM. As an alternative you can choose to "Cut it and leave it" information about this process is provided below.

— Cut it and leave it —



During the summer months, grass clippings can account for as much as one-third of the residential solid waste stream in Bergen County. As a Bergen County resident, you probably already recycle material such as newspaper, glass, aluminum cans, and more. However, many people may not realize that another material that is easily recyclable is right under their feet, **GRASS**. By leaving grass clippings on the lawn when you mow, you're letting nature do the recycling for you. Grass clippings provide a natural fertilizer for your growing lawn.

During the growing season (April through October), a 5,000 square foot lawn will provide one ton (2,000 pounds) of grass clippings. By just "cutting it and leaving it" think of the amount of waste that you will be diverting from the solid waste stream, not to mention the tax savings for your town due to lower disposal costs.

By following these easy guidelines, you can "cut it and leave it" and have a healthier lawn!

How to "Cut it and leave it"

To maintain your lawn properly, do not cut more than the top third of your lawn so the small clippings will filter down to the soil. Since these clippings will provide a natural fertilizer, your lawn will be healthier. Most New Jersey lawns grow well when they are mowed to about 2 to 3 inches. The tall grass will shade the soil and cool the grass roots, resulting in a healthier lawn.

Will thatch be a problem?

No. Thatch is formed from the accumulation of dead roots and stems, not grass clippings. The more you fertilize and water your lawn, the faster it grows and the faster thatch accumulates.



— Cut it and leave it —



Saving time and money

Homeowners who leave grass clippings on the lawn will actually reduce their total annual mowing time by 20-25%. You'll save time because you won't have to worry about stopping and bagging your clippings and then bringing the clippings to the curb.

You'll save money on grass bags and fertilizer while your municipality saves on solid waste disposal costs.

Simple Tips...

- Try purchasing a mulching lawn mower or adding a mulching attachment to your current mower.
- Avoid mowing more than the top third of the growing grass.
- Don't over fertilize your lawn. Most home lawns require three applications of fertilizer per year. To determine specific lawn growing needs, contact your local Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office for a soil test.

Alternatives

Mulch clippings into your garden. Place about an inch of clippings directly on the soil around plantings to moderate soil temperature and weed growth.

Incorporate clippings into the soil. Since most Bergen County soils are low in organic material, mixing grass clippings directly into the garden soil will add valuable organic material.

Compost you clippings. Grass clippings are an excellent addition to your backyard leaf compost pile. Do not add more than one-third grass clippings to your compost pile. If your compost begins to produce odor, add composted leaves to help aerate the grass clippings.

