

## LAWN MOWING TIPS

### *Mindful Mowing*

Mowing your lawn may seem like a straightforward task, but there are best practices that will maximize your mowing efforts. There are also common mistakes that can potentially damage your lawn. Here are a few easy mistakes to avoid when tending your lawn.



#### **WATCH YOUR SPEED**

Some folks think that slower is better when it comes to riding mowers. Mowers are designed to be run at full speed, with the blade speed linked to the engine speed. Hitting a higher RPM on your engine means you'll get an better cut.

At the same time, it's not a good idea to rush through the process of mowing the lawn. Take your time to ensure you get a clean, even cut. A rushed job can look messy, which is the last thing you want.

#### **USING DULL BLADES**

Sharp blades provide a sharp, clean cut. Mower blades wear down with use, just like a razor blade. A dull mower blade leaves ragged, jagged, and torn grass, which is unattractive and can lead to lawn disease. Be sure to sharpen your blades at least once a year. It also helps to keep an extra sharpened blade handy.

#### **CUTTING A WET LAWN**

Mowing a wet lawn is both unsafe and ineffective. Not only is it difficult and dangerous to operate a mower on a slick, wet lawn, but the moist clippings are also more likely to stick to and clog your mower. You can't change the weather, but you can schedule accordingly.

#### **INFREQUENT MOWING**

Mowing is easy to put off, but delay is bad for your grass. The taller it gets, the more you'll cut off when you finally mow. Cutting off a large amount at once weakens each individual plant and leads to other problems later on.

#### **CUTTING GRASS TOO SHORT**

Removing more than 1/3 of the grass blade damages the lawn. Known as "scalping the lawn," a super-short cut makes the yard more prone to weeds and forces the grass to focus on regrowing its blades instead of deepening its roots.

#### **MIX UP YOUR MOWING**

Alternating your pattern of mowing helps reduce soil compaction, encourages upright growth of grass blades, and helps you get a more uniform cut.

#### **NOT CLEANING THE MOWER**

The underside of your mower deck is easy to neglect. Unfortunately, this can actively shorten the life of your machine. Not only do clippings block the airflow necessary for mulching or bagging, but moisture and fertilizer traces can also corrode the deck of the mower, causing premature rust and wear.