

# The Other Side Lawn Service

## Lawn Care Tips

### Mowing Guidelines

*The Grass is Always Greener on "The Other Side"*

Mowing is one of the most important, and perhaps one of the most overlooked cultural practices associated with maintaining a healthy lawn. Improper mowing practices can lead to a weakened turf that is more susceptible to environmental stress and diseases.

**Keeping mower blades sharp is crucial.** A dull mower blade mutilates the grass leaf, leaving a jagged browned edge that is not only visually unattractive, but also provides a favorable site for disease penetration.

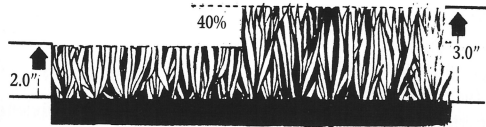
**Proper mowing height is important.** While mowing heights vary depending on turf species, season and environmental conditions, the chart below is a good guideline for our area. Lower cutting heights in spring

Turfgrass	Seasonal Mowing Heights		
	Spring	Summer	Fall
KY Bluegrass	1.5" - 2.0"	3.0" - 3.5"	2.0"
Tall Fescue	2.0" - 3.0"	3.0" - 3.5"	2.0" - 3.0"

(April – mid June) takes advantage of incoming radiation and soil warming for growth. Raising

cutting heights in summer (mid June – late August) helps increase vegetation, insulates the crown from temperature stress and reduces weed competition. Adjusting the cutting height lower in the fall encourages lateral turfgrass growth and stand thickening.

**Adjust mowing frequency to your lawns growth rate.** Do not remove more than 30% - 40% of the leaf blade with any one mowing. Removing an excessive amount of topgrowth reduces turf quality and restricts or even halts root growth, leaving the turf more susceptible to stress.



*Do not remove more than 30-40 percent of the leaf with any mowing.*

**Clipping Removal.** If proper mowing frequency is maintained, lawn clippings do not need to be removed. Clippings recycle nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium back into the turf. Under normal conditions, clippings do not contribute to excessive thatch build-up. Clippings need only be removed if they accumulate on top of the turf during mowing. Clippings left on the turf surface decompose slowly, may smother the grass and can lead to increased disease development.

If you would like more information on the importance of proper mowing practices, please give us a call or stop by our office.