

The Benefits of Mulching

The myth of mulching

by John Cloutier

There is a myth out there that mulching clippings is not good for turf. The myth would have you believe that mulching builds up thatch and that the final appearance is inferior to mowing and bagging clippings. The reality, however, is quite the contrary. If you have the right equipment, you can mulch, get a great looking cut, and actually improve the health of your turf.

Mulching, sometimes called "grass-cycling," also recycles valuable nutrients into the turf while making significant strides toward waste reduction.

Mulching can also provide dramatic boosts to turf maintenance productivity. By eliminating the need to stop

and empty bags, then collect and dispose of clippings, turf care professionals can reduce the time it takes to cut grass on a property by 30 to 50 percent.

Mulching conserves water and keeps turf greener

Grass clippings contain nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Grasscycling returns these nutrients to the turf, providing up to 25 percent of the lawn's total annual nitrogen requirement. Grass blades are between 70 and 80 percent water when freshly cut. When the grass is

chopped finely and blown deep into the turf, much of the moisture returns to the soil. Plus, the dry mulch acts as a barrier that reduces evaporation from the soil, further conserving water.



HUDSON® CFV Valve™

Reduce chemical use up to 24%* . .
Less sprayer pumping, too!

- Reduces number of times manual sprayer needs to be pumped!
- Regulates pressure for steady, even flow.
- Shuts off spray if pressure falls below set amount.
- Allows for constant, precisely calibrated spray application.
- Reduces drift and spray waste — *environmentally sound*.
- Makes operator training faster and easier.
- Available in: 15, 21, 29 and 44 psi (1, 1.5, 2 and 3 BAR.)

**Think of the work and money
you'll save in just one day!**

H. D. HUDSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Professional Division

500 N. Michigan Ave • Chicago, IL 60611-3769

Phone: 1-800-745-2392 Fax: 1-312-644-7989

E-mail: Valve@hdhudson.com www.hdhudson.com



**Less than
\$10** sugg. list

*Based on independent tests in UK. Contact us for details.

Circle 123 on Inquiry Card

"In the summer when it's dry, we see the difference in the turf. Even with the same watering, our grass stays greener than neighboring turf where the clippings have been collected."

Mark Heinz
Heinz Landscape and Construction
Glenview, IL

The myth that grasscycling creates too much thatch is erroneous. In reality over-fertilizing, over-watering, and cutting too much of the grass blade causes stems, roots, and partially decomposed matter to build up on the top of the soil. The rapid decomposition of the tiny clippings produced by grasscycling helps to actually prevent thatch from developing.

Earthworms, beneficial insects, and microorganisms actually improve the quality of your soil and your lawn. Finely-chopped clippings, even leaves, make an excellent meal for these creatures and are quickly broken down, releasing valuable elements and humus to the soil. This is a natural

way to a great-looking lawn.

"We've been in the business 62 years, cutting large, private estates for some very particularly people. We started mulching four years ago. Now we mulch year-round, and I think our lawns are better for it. We've reduced our fertilizer needs, we're using less chemicals, and are seeing more earthworms. Mulching works wonders. With few employees, I've cut a lot of expenses. It really helps the bottom line."

Bill Antilety
Jacob Antilety Landscaping, Inc.
Long Island, NY



Photo courtesy: John Deere

Mulching bad for your lawn? Remember the facts. Mulching creates waste reduction, water conservation, a healthier soil, and keeps nutrients in the soil. With the right equipment, the finished cut produced by mulching can be picture-perfect.

John Cloutier is the National Marketing Manager for Exmark Mfg. Co., Inc.



Out front cutting with baskets for clippings.



Attractive striping shows-off playing field.



Groom 2-4 acres an hour with National Mower 70" Sports Turf Triplex

Great Sports Striping At Superb Prices

- Light on your wallet – low initial cost and long life
- Great striping from the shearing reel cut of a National
- Smooth, clean cutting builds harder, healthier turf
- Easier to sharpen and lower operating cost
- Easier to maintain than rotary riding mower
- Easy rear turning wheel for high maneuverability

Visit us online: www.nationalmower.com
or call: 1-888-907-3463



NATIONAL MOWER COMPANY

SINCE 1919

700 Raymond Avenue • St. Paul, MN 55114
Fax (651) 646-2887 Email sales@nationalmower.com



NATIONAL® is a Registered Trademark of National Mower Company

Nothing makes sports turf look better than a National. The Best Price. The Best Cutting.

Circle 125 on Inquiry Card