

# How Cutting Affects Grasses?

To understand why mowing is so important to the health of your lawn, you need to get down to lawn level and see what mowing really does.

Grasses are like most plants - if you clip off the growing points, the plants branch out and become denser. If you didn't mow at all, your lawn would look more like a prairie. You would have a bumpy surface composed of mounding or spongy grasses, separated by open spaces or weeds. When you mow each grass plant fights for every available space, and eventually creates a dense turf. But the mere act of mowing is not what makes lawn look good. Mowing height and frequency determine how healthy and attractive your lawn looks. After all, cutting a lawn is stressful for the grass.

## **Mowing Does Not Benefit Grass!**

- It removes part of the leaf area which is important for photosynthesis, the process that manufactures food for growth and other life processes.
- Cut leaf tops are injured and the possibility of grass disease infection increases.
- Cutting grasses excessively low, at one time, is quite damaging. This is referred to as "Scalping".
- Scalping clips the grass plant off at the crown, thus disrupting root growth and reserves, resulting in poor root growth.
- Cutting stimulates top growth at the expense of root growth.

## **How to Reduce Damage?**

- Mow frequently to remove as little of the green area of each leaf as possible.
- Mowing frequently reduces shock to the plant.
- Mow at the right height and don't cut off more than a third of the blade.

Use mowers with sharp blades.